

**VOR Celebrating
30 Years
of Advocacy in 2013**

***FACING THE FUTURE:
TOGETHER WE WILL***

**VOR 2013 Annual Conference
Legislative Briefing and Dinner Event**

**June 8 – 12, 2013
in Washington, D.C.**

Clifford Bartman Hunterdon Developmental Center

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Celebrating 30 Years

By Ann Knighton, President

We've all heard the expression, "you can never say 'thanks' enough." Here at VOR, we absolutely value the importance of gratitude. Board members and staff make effort to express gratitude in phone calls, publications, letters, and when we can, in person. We recognize that without the support of VOR members, there would be no VOR. In the nonprofit world, seven (7) is the magic number. It is said that for every contribution, in time or money, that an individual makes, he/she should be thanked 7 times. So, while I can think of countless reasons to say thanks, I'll give the number 7 a try:

1) Thank you for your year-end giving!

Most recently, many loyal members came through in a big way by supporting VOR with 2012 year-end donations. We met and exceeded our goal. Donations matter whenever you are able to give: We simply cannot assist the families that need us and advocate for the rights of your loved ones without your support. You are all greatly appreciated. Thank you!

2) Thank you for 30 years!

It is hard to adequately say "thanks" for 30 years of effective advocacy. Everyone can take credit for VOR's 30 year milestone, including new members and members who have supported VOR for decades.

3) Thank you for teamwork!

The VOR family simply must work together. If not for families and others who care for our loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), then who? From the advocates who choose to contribute money to the advocates who donate their time serving on VOR's board or national committees, and everyone in between, working together as a team is how we've been successful and viable for so long.

4) Thank you for your trust!

VOR's volunteer Board of Directors recognize the importance of their leadership and are humbled by the trust afforded to them by VOR's voting membership (watch for opportunity to vote for Board members soon).

5) Thanks to those of you who have or will travel to Washington, D.C.; and to all of you who support these participants from back home!

Details for VOR's 2013 Annual Conference and Initiative are included in this newsletter. I'm delighted by the early excitement surrounding this Conference, which marks our 30th year. Please join us!

6) Thank you for giving Social Media a try!

Some of you blazed the "social media" trail long before VOR's call to do so; and others have answered our call. Either way, we are grateful to those of you who have braved this frontier and used it to VOR's benefit. Social media offers significant potential for VOR awareness and growth.

7) Thank you for "Carrying the banner, stepping up to the plate, and rising to the issues, knowing we have much work to do and many miles yet to go"!

Our 30 years of advocacy have been an uphill endeavor. While we can mark success in the very existence of Medicaid facilities in most states, we have "many miles to go." This is felt most profoundly in states where DOJ, state legislatures or some other force threatens future of choice. *Thank you! Together we will!*



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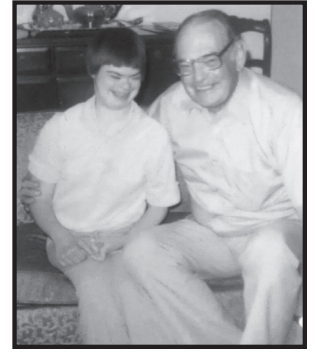
VOR MISSION STATEMENT

VOR is a national organization that advocates for high quality care and human rights for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Remembering and Honoring Martin L. Pratt, Jr., VOR's Founder

VOR was founded in 1983 when a group of dedicated family advocates from around the country banded together to successfully defeat the Chafee Bill, federal legislation which would have decertified and defunded all federal Medicaid Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFs/ID).

The man leading the charge was the late-Martin Pratt who saw a vision for his daughter, Nancy and her peers that went beyond his kitchen table and even beyond Illinois. He recognized so wisely that families of individuals with intellectual disabilities across the country speaking with one voice were so much stronger together than apart. Connecting families and organizations from around the country, Marty brought them all together under one advocacy organization: "Voice of the Retarded." Terminology has changed but in 30 years, VOR continues to fight for what Marty knew to be necessary and just for our nation's citizens with intellectual disabilities.



How it all Started

In 1956, Marty and Ellen welcomed their fourth child, Nancy, into the world. Nancy joined three older siblings, Jim (age 3 at the time), Linda (age 7) and Richard (age 9). Nancy had Down Syndrome and initially, the national advocate-to-be had a difficult time coming to terms with her disability. Marty and Ellen had already lost their first child to a heart defect at just 2 months old, and their oldest son, Richard, also suffered from a heart problem that required open heart surgery just one year after Nancy's birth. Marty, who was known as a perfectionist and characteristically, always pictured a perfect family, was dealing with quite a lot at the time.

It will not surprise people who knew him that Marty eventually did come to terms with Nancy's disability and put all his legendary "type A" energy into ensuring her well-being. Marty became involved in many organizations for people with disabilities and helped open a school in Montreal for children with intellectual disabilities. Eventually, Marty's advocacy for Nancy and her peers expanded nationally. Marty founded VOR in 1983 in response to the Chafee threat and served as its President through 1991. Even today, long-time members credit Marty for making them aware of VOR and our cause after seeing him debate then-Senator John Chafee on the Today Show in 1987 (a video that his daughter, Linda, has and is restoring for VOR).

Then and Now

In 1983, VOR was founded in response to a threat to residential choice. In 1992, Marty wrote to VOR members saying, "Today, there is a strong movement being mounted, by several groups, with the objective of closing larger residential facilities. It is most important that such action, by these closure groups, be met with strong opposition by facility parent organizations."

In 2013, we continue to face these threats. The strong and effective Voice that Marty knew was needed in 1983 remains today. VOR, as an organization advancing high quality care and human rights for all people with I/DD, no matter where they reside, remains as necessary and relevant today than ever before. Marty saw this sustaining vision. While many people recognize the basic notion that more hands make for less work - it takes a true leader to orchestrate the formation of a national organization to coordinate advocacy around a shared cause and mission. Marty was that leader.

A Natural on the National Stage: Polly Spare, VOR's President from 1992-1999



Polly Spare was well-suited for the role as President of a national organization. With the Chafee victory fresh in the minds of family advocates, she was a natural on the national stage and took the advocacy world by storm, handling prominent meetings for the organization at all levels of government. Some of the access and credibility that Polly forged in her years as President remain available to VOR today.

Polly's Early Advocacy Years

Like most VOR leaders, Polly became a disability advocate with the arrival of Sandra. Born to Polly and Bill in 1952, Sandra was injured at birth, resulting in profound intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Two years later, Christopher was born premature and also experienced I/DD. Despite their profound disabilities, Polly was not to be deterred and threw herself into bettering Sandra and Christopher's lives. She started 3 preschool programs and a workshop, and helped draft Pennsylvania's disability law. She also founded the Pennsylvania League of Concerned Families.

Continued on page 11...

My Brother Jim

by Mary A. Vitale, VOR Board Member and State Coordinator



My brother Jim was born in 1953. At 18 months old he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and profound mental retardation (now called intellectual disability). During the next decade, my parents took advantage of all the medical resources and therapies available at that time.

However, during the 1960's, they were faced with the deeply sorrowful realization that placement of my brother outside the home was necessary. He was admitted to the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center, a state operated intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded (ICF/MR), in St. Louis, Missouri

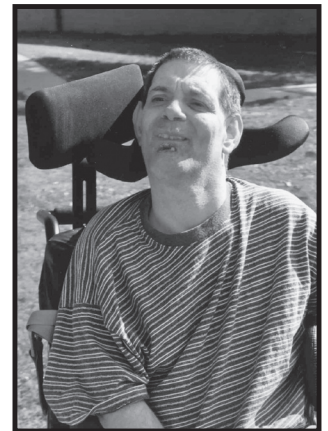
Because the level of care for persons with the diagnosis of mental retardation was in dire need of improvement, families at Bellefontaine joined together to get federal and state legislation passed. The federal legislation and the budget to implement it regulated a higher level of care. On the state level, money was appropriated for new group homes to be built on the campus. The lives of the residents at the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center and other facilities were greatly improved.

I have been an active legal guardian of my brother for over 30 years. Several times during those years it has been suggested that a move to some other home would benefit my brother. After considering the new suggested placement each time, it was decided that the best care for him was at the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center. One of these suggested placements closed just 6 months after being offered as a better home!

The disturbing reality is that none of the alternative placements are still in operation today. This means we would have had to move Jim several times over the years, each move being very traumatic for him. I am sure he would not have survived so much disruption in his care.

The Bellefontaine Habilitation Center has existed since 1924. Of course, it has been re-invented several times over those many years. Recently in July 2012, renovations and new homes were completed. The fact that this facility has existed for nearly 100 years is a strong visible support statement that ICFs/MR are successful, stable, and sustainable. They can continue to be re-invented to best serve those now being diagnosed with a severe intellectual disability

My description of my brother today at age 60 is that he is severely intellectually disabled, has multiple physical impairments, behavior challenges, and ongoing medical conditions. His mental age has been tested as that of a 2-3 year old. He has never been able to walk, always using a wheelchair. He has never talked, but uses gestures, signs, and facial expressions to communicate.



Because of swallowing abnormalities he is on a choking precaution. He has severe agitated behaviors that are being minimized. He is totally dependent upon others for all his daily needs.

Despite these multiple disabilities, I can say my brother is a happy and healthy man. Jim has a twinkle in his eye and a wonderful smile. He has always loved to listen to music, and has always been very attentive to animal stories. Soda and chocolate shakes are some of his favorite foods. He has a full day of activities on and off campus, needed therapies on campus, and 24/7 medical staff.

The consistent, comprehensive, cost-effective care he has received over the years at his home at the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center has allowed him to attain and maintain his highest God-given abilities.

Holly Honeymoon: A Rare Victory is Christmas Present for one Family and Hope for Others



After an eight year journey, Virginia (“Ginger”) Massa now calls Holly Center home.

Families in similar situations across the country will appreciate what a monumental challenge it was for Ginger and her family to secure placement at Holly Center. As a Medicaid-licensed intermediate care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities (ICF/ID), becoming a permanent resident meant bucking a state and national trend.

Ginger’s good fortune is not lost on Mary Reese, Ginger’s stepmother and a VOR Board Member.

“Our elation at Ginger’s placement at Holly Center is diminished by the knowledge that thousands of others are ‘stuck’ in community residential programs without consistent care and comprehensive services that are so necessary for their well-being,” says

Reese. “I wish we could have done more to change this system which is so heartless and cruel in the name of individual rights and the subjective interpretation of least restrictive environment.”

Looking Back and Ahead

Ginger’s long journey, while certainly peppered with significant hurdles along the way, is not without success that will benefit others (see related article, “ICF/ID admission determination requires due process,” page 9. “Families still face an uphill battle, but at least now there must be a fair hearing,” remarked Reese. “In our case, it reset the clock and gave us hope; before it was nothing more than the State Director’s whim, letterhead and signature.”

*“Home is the place where,
when you have to go there,
they have to take you in.”*

~ Robert Frost

Ginger: At Home at Holly

“I’ve been telling everyone it felt like Ginger and I were in the film ‘The Wizard of Oz,’” says Reese. “Remember how the film begins in black and white and then at the yellow brick road everything turns to Technicolor? That’s the best way I know to describe what a dramatic change Ginger has experienced moving from her inadequate and, at times, unsafe, community placement to Holly Center, a licensed ICF/ID.”



Reese credits VOR for recognizing that a victory for Ginger would benefit Ginger’s peers throughout Maryland. “VOR convinced the law firm Sidley Austin, LLP, that Ginger’s cause was a case worth taking,” said Reese. “We will not now abandon those who are not as fortunate,” says Reese.

“Our greatest hope is that Ginger’s long journey paves the way for others in Maryland and even across the country.”

VOR Officers and Board Members July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

Officers

Ann Knighton (GA), President
Sybil Finken (IA), Immediate Past President
Geoffrey Dubrowsky (NJ), First Vice President
Barbara Cukierski (IL), Treasurer
David Swain (NV), Secretary

Board Members

Jill Barker (MI)
Mary Kay Cowen (LA)
Jill Goldstein (NY)
David Hart (MA)
Stephen Johnson (CA)
Mary McTernan (MA)
Terry Lafleur (LA)
Linda Lotzi (PA)
Mary Reese (MD)
Mary Vitale (MO)

VOR's 2013 Annual Conference and Washington Initiative: Facing the Future: Together We Will

2013 marks VOR's 30th Anniversary. For a group that began with just a few families around Marty Pratt's kitchen table in Illinois, we've come a long way. VOR's membership is still comprised primarily of families and friends of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), but we boast thousands of members.

VOR's Annual Conference (**Sunday, June 9, 2013**) and Washington Initiative (**beginning Monday, June 10, 2013**), will be the pinnacle event marking our 30th year, with presentations that celebrate the advocacy teamwork that brought us through 30 years and will carry us forward into the future.



Richard Male

Richard Male, a nonprofit strategist and consultant, will be our keynote dinner speaker. He will focus on "teamwork and enthusiasm" as essential ingredients of success for nonprofits like VOR. "Teamwork is a critical element in the success of a nonprofit organization . . . The nonprofit organization's team is often an eclectic group of individuals with disparate tastes and ideas about how things should work. Regardless of differences, it is imperative that these groups and the individuals within these groups function together like well-oiled wheels. "

Our Conference program will also feature a panel discussion relating to VOR's new Quality in the Community Initiative. "**Mission Possible: Standardizing quality across all care settings,**" will include parent and provider representatives who will discuss and share best practices in ICF/MR and home and community-based service settings. Panelists are **Renee Naylor** (Westcare Management), **Ralph Kennedy** (Tennessee Family Solutions), and **Brad Whitehead** (California Association of Psychiatric Technicians) (invited).

A Legislative Briefing, Voice and Advocacy (new!) Awards, and President's Message will round out the formal presentations. Other events include a reception and dinner to maximize the networking that past participants cite as the most meaningful aspect of VOR's conference. For additional networking, participants can also take in our annual State Reports and a Networking/Hospitality Reception the Saturday (June 8) evening before the Conference.



Renee Naylor



Ralph Kennedy



Brad Whitehead

Please join us and help us celebrate 30 years of choice and quality advocacy on behalf of all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



HOTEL INFORMATION
Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill
400 New Jersey Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

**Reservations
Due by
May 6, 2013**

All Conference, Dinner and VOR Meetings held at Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill (located directly across the street from the Liaison). Roommates will be arranged, if possible, upon request.

To Make Your Reservations:

Call 1-888-421-1442 or Online (https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_gi_new&groupID=11714139)

The **VOR Group rate** is \$225 for single or double, plus tax, per night. Triple (\$250, plus tax) and Quadruple (\$275, plus tax) suites are also available. To receive group rate, **mention "VOR."**

2013 VOICE AWARD RECIPIENTS:
The late-Martin L. Pratt, Jr., VOR Founder;
and Polly Spare (Past President, 1992-1999)

Both remarkable leaders left an indelible mark on VOR's history and the organization it is today (see page 3). Join Polly and her family and the late-Marty Pratt's family in celebration of their legacies at the VOR Annual Conference, Sunday June 9, 2013.

A gathering of like-minded choice advocates in our nation's capital is a fitting tribute to these great VOR leaders.

New in 2013: Exciting Sponsorship Opportunities, in partnership with *EP Magazine!*

In celebration of our 30th year of advocating for people with I/DD and their families, VOR is pleased to announce our partnership with *EP Magazine*, the preeminent leader in publishing for children and adults with disabilities and special health care needs.



VOR's partnership with EP Magazine, coupled with our outreach to our membership and social media networks, offers the following sponsors the opportunity to be listed in *EP Magazine* (www.eparent.com) which reaches 300,000 readers, in its June and July 2013 issues of *EP Magazine*:

- 30th Anniversary Sponsors (\$12,500 +)
- Martin Pratt Founder Sponsors (\$8,500 +), and
- Protecting Choice & Quality level Sponsors (\$6,500 +).

All Sponsors of VOR's 30th Anniversary Annual Conference and Initiative will receive the following marketing outreach opportunities through VOR's recognition promises:

- Direct recognition in VOR's print publication, which reaches over 3000 thousand family members, organizations, companies, facilities, professionals and educators from every State, Puerto Rico, and Aruba.
- Recognition on VOR's website and in social media for one year.
- Recognition for one month in VOR's Weekly E-News Publication, received by thousands of recipients each month.
- Links to sponsor recognition page on all VOR staff emails for one year reaching hundreds of recipients each month.
- Recognition in the Conference Program and signage.
- Attendance (networking) at VOR's Annual Conference.
- Opportunity to share your literature with Conference attendees (\$350 level or higher)

These Sponsorship opportunities provide your organization maximum exposure throughout the Annual Conference and beyond. **This is your opportunity to have your name associated nationally with advocacy for choice and quality care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.**

Complete Sponsorship details, including categories, benefits and pledge form, can be downloaded from VOR's website at www.vor.net/events. To be a sponsor or refer a sponsor, contact Julie Huso at 605-370-4652 or jhuso@vor.net.

On the web: www.vor.net/events

- **Conference Details**
- **Conference Registration**
- **Hotel Information and Reservations**
- **Sponsorship and Exhibit Opportunities**



The week of Monday, June 10, 2013: VOR's Washington Initiative: Carrying our Choice Message to Congress

Join choice advocates from around the country the week of Monday, June 10 as we work together to convey the importance of residential choice and family decision-making directly to Members of Congress and their staff. Legislative priorities will include

federally-funded closure lawsuit reform, DD Act Reform and Reauthorization, opposition to National Council on Disability funding; quality in the community; and support for adequately funding Medicaid. Please plan to participate and cover your state's Congressional Delegation (most participants stay Monday and Tuesday). There will also be informal de-briefings for and by participants on Monday and Tuesday evenings at the Hyatt hotel. **For more information, please contact Tamie Hopp at thopp@vor.net or 605-399-1624.**

Who is Our Family?

By Julie Huso, Executive Director



To me, "family" is made of up people we relate to, by choice or by chance, through good times and bad. "Family" means anyone we relate to, love, care and/or nurture because we are connected in some ongoing way –by cause or by blood.

At least, that's what family means to me. In this way, VOR is very much an extended family. We relate to each other because we have something in common.

Together we stand up for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Together we are working towards ensuring a quality life for the individuals we love.

Together we gather this June for our Annual Conference and Initiative – a family reunion of sorts for advocates who make this annual trek to Washington, D.C. Together we will learn and advocate. Together we face hurdles on a state and national level. Together we will face these challenges.

We must remember that we are all part of this VOR family wanting the same results. As individuals we are part of the larger VOR family and, like most families, we all have unique strengths, different weaknesses, and varying ideas of what needs to be done and how. These differences make us stronger. Life is full of opposites.

We all stand for the same mission to advocate for high quality care and human rights for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Please join the VOR family in Washington, D.C. this June! I am confident that you will be energized and encouraged to move forward when you return home to your other family.

As VOR celebrates 30 years of advocacy, we all need to look to the future and engage in the teamwork that is vital to our continued hard work for all people with I/DD.

Making a Will Bequest to VOR!!

Will bequests are a popular and personal way to making a difference beyond your lifetime. **Why?** (1) Charitable bequests are an excellent way to pass on assets that may otherwise be substantially taxed; (2) The donor's estate may be entitled to an estate tax charitable deduction; and (3) You will be supporting a charitable organization. For More information on how to leave a bequest to VOR please contact Julie Huso, Executive Director, 605-370-4652 or jhuso@vor.net.

"Family isn't just about whose blood runs through your veins. It's about who never left your side, stood up for you and believed in you."

~ Adrian Body

VOR's State Coordinator Family

State Coordinators are volunteer VOR leaders that help coordinate advocacy and membership recruitment in their states. Coordinators leverage their existing advocacy network work to help advance VOR's Mission.

On March 13, 2013, VOR will hold it's first State Coordinator and Key Member Webinar.

Attendees will receive an overview of the State Coordinator program, including a review of the roles of State Coordinators and the supports VOR is offering to Coordinators.

State Coordinators are vital to VOR's advocacy success and growth. Quarterly "Meet-ups" are planned to ensure ongoing communication and support.

If you are interested in learning more, contact Julie Huso at jhuso@vor.net or 605-370-4652.

Does VOR have your current e-mail address?

If you do not receive the *VOR Weekly News Update* publication, then chances are we do not have your current e-mail address. Help us update our email records by emailing your current email address to info@vor.net. **Thank you!**

VOR's Quality in the Community Initiative

VOR recently launched its "Quality in the Community" initiative to proactively address the negative outcomes associated with unprepared community settings for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The project's objective is to promote high-quality, person-centered community programs and services for all individuals with I/DD through advocacy and develop legislation to ensure uniform, humane quality standards in community settings across all states.

The need for VOR's Quality in the Community Initiative is urgent. Deinstitutionalization continues in earnest. As a result individuals with profound I/DD, multiple disabilities, medical fragilities, and behavior challenges are removed from specialized settings to "community-based" settings often without poorly trained staff and inadequate health and safety measures in place. Predictable tragedies are well-documented and widespread.

A recent Quality Matters Survey of VOR's membership confirms that certain factors relating to oversight, background checks, staff training and competencies, provider communication with families/guardians, and access to specialized services, are "non-negotiable" when it comes to ensuring high quality care.

In addition to publishing information about State legislative efforts to ensure quality, and initiating a dialogue among providers and families at our Annual Conference (see page 6 – 7), VOR will also be pursuing federal legislation to further profile the need for standardized quality assurance across all settings.

If your family member is being served well in a small residential setting, we would love hearing from you. There are good examples of high quality care in community settings; the wheel does not need to be reinvented. It's time we promoted these best practices.

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Legal News

ICF/ID admission Determination Requires Due Process

The Maryland Court of Special Appeals, in 2006, found in favor of Appellant, Mary Reese, who, on behalf of Virginia Massa, appealed the denial Virginia's admission to Holly Center, a state-operated Medicaid ICF/ID. The Court agreed that Virginia was denied procedural due process because the Statute only provided for a hearing if the Secretary approved admission; it did not require a hearing when an application for ICF/ID admission was denied. Because ICF/ID admission is a state benefit, applicants who may be eligible have an interest that cannot be taken away without due process. Read the decision at vor.net/images/ReesevMD2006.pdf.

National Council on Disability: Reckless Disregard for Rights

VOR strongly objects to the National Council on Disability's (NCD) newly released "*Deinstitutionalization: Unfinished Business*" policy document (110 pages) and accompanying "toolkit" (how-to manual) (201 pages).

With no basis in law and incorrectly cited Olmstead, NCD alleges that individuals with I/DD are enduring civil rights violations based solely on the size of their homes. NCD has arbitrarily decided that any home (ICFs/ID and group homes) with four or more residence is an "institution" worthy of closure.

Unquestionably, as an "independent," federally-funded organization charged with advising our federal lawmakers, NCD should not be taking a position that tramples on the rights of a small, but no less worthy, segment of its constituency. This insensitive, reckless attitude will cause these vulnerable individuals to suffer grievous harm and even death. NCD calls for closure even while admitting that housing is scarce, some services are underfunded, and "specialized health care and dental services may not be available locally."

VOR members from across the country – families and legal guardians of individuals with profound I/DD, serious medical problems, or aggressive and assaultive behaviors, and others who simply value the right of residential choice – stand united in its opposition to NCD's misuse of authority and federal funding. They take personal affront at the suggestion that their decisions to ensure high quality, life-sustaining care for their family member also violate their family members' "civil rights."

"In 49 states, Medicaid does not pay for dental care."

– NCD

reckless disregard ~ n. gross negligence without concern for danger to others (law.com)

VOR's position paper is available at <http://www.vor.net/news/25>.

To speak out, submit your comments to:

PublicComment@ncd.gov; 202-272-2022 (fax); or

NCD • 1331 F Street, NW, Suite 850 • Washington, DC 20004

Pennsylvania: Intervention Granted, Settlement Approval Overturned

On December 12, 2012 the Third Circuit Court of Appeals released its judgment and opinion on an appeal brought by families who challenged the lower court's denial of intervention, approval of an overly-broad class definition, and approval of a settlement. The federal appellate court vacated the District Court's denial of intervention with instructions to the District Court that it grant intervention as a matter of right. Furthermore, the Appellate Court vacated the certification of the class and approval of the settlement indicating that while it makes no opinion on these issues, the family intervenors must be given opportunity, as "proper intervenors," to challenge the settlement and to seek decertification of the class.

The class definition which will now be revisited by the District court includes all residents of state-operated ICFs/MR who "do not oppose" community placement, without regard to individual capacity to object to community placement. If the class remains decertified by the lower court, the lawsuit would proceed on behalf of just the five named plaintiffs (represented by Protection and Advocacy) who seek community placement and not a class of more than 1,000, many of whom require ICF/ID care.

VOR has supported intervenors in this lawsuit, helping to secure pro bono counsel (Sidley Austin, LLP) and participating as Amicus Curiae throughout the case. In support of this most recent appeal, VOR with 92 individuals filed an Amicus Curiae brief in support of nine families of Pennsylvania's ICFs/ID residents, supporting their request for intervention and their objections to the settlement and class certification. Special thanks to attorneys at DLA Piper in Philadelphia who represented VOR.

State News

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New Jersey: Law passes to protect people with I/DD in community settings

Community-care residences for the developmentally disabled will get more rigorous oversight under a recently passed New Jersey law. Tara's Law, named after Tara O'Leary, a disabled woman who died in November 2008 of neglect while living in a community residence, requires tighter oversight of state caseworkers and residences. There are about 600 community care residences licensed by state, which are home to more than 1,200 individuals. Unlike group homes and supervised apartments operated by community agencies that specialize in caring for the developmentally disabled, the affected residences are essentially foster homes. (Source: NorthJersey.com, Dec. 9, 2012)

Tributes

Thank you to all of the individuals who requested or gave donations in honor of someone special, or in memory of a loved one. For those who have lost someone special, please accept our deepest sympathy.

IN MEMORY

Cory Ammons
Mary Elizabeth Colon
Sean Dolan
Paul Heckt
Dr. James B. Hurst and Mrs. Mary Ann Hurst
Gwen Jackson
Carol Lindstrom
Jackie MacRae
Charlie Townsend
Joe and Nancy Tribulato
Patrick Zachowski

IN HONOR

Cindy Bartman
Randy Bayer
Jacob Beebe
Cristy Dwyer
Seth Finken
Sybil & Russ Finken
Waja Grimm
Tamie Hopp
Julie Huso
Timothy Johnson
Virginia Massa
Mary McTernan
Roslyn Mentone
Northern Virginia Training Center
Duncan Raymond
Mary Reese
Sandra Reeves
Cheryl Sorter
Tommy Surratt
Danny Walsworth

...."A Natural on the National Stage: Polly Spare, VOR's President from 1992-1999" continued from page 3

During Sandra and Chris' early years, Polly and Bill adopted two children, Jonathon and Kathryn. They provided significant joy to the Spares as they sought the very best care for Sandra and Christopher, who received good care at Woods Services for many years.

Bringing VOR to New Heights

Advocates who remember Polly during her term as VOR's President will recall her charisma. She was willing to see anyone and be anywhere on VOR's behalf. Her willingness to not only lead VOR but serve as its very visible spokesman opened many doors and eyes, raising awareness about VOR like never before.

Polly left an indelible impression on those who knew her. She adeptly took the baton handed to her by Marty Pratt and made it her own. Building on Marty's legacy, Polly grew VOR and made it more visible in her 7 years at the helm. We are a stronger, more visible organization even today due to her leadership.

VOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

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(877) 399-4867	Elk Grove Village, IL 60007	Rapid City, SD 57709	Arnold, MD 21012-2312
	605-370-4652 Voice	605-399-1624 Voice	410-757-1867 Voice/Fax
	605-271-0445 Fax	605-399-1631 Fax	LarryInnis@aol.com
	Jhuso@vor.net	Thopp@vor.net	

Membership/Contribution Form or donate online @ www.vor.net/online-membership form Please send dues to: VOR, 836 S. Arlington Heights Rd., #351 • Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 • FAX 605-271-0445

**Thank you for your dues
and contributions!**

**I would like to give the gift of a
VOR membership to:**

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone number(s) _____

Telephone number(s) _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Referred by (if applicable): _____

I would like to make a tribute gift:

My contact information has changed.

This gift is in ___In Memory ___ In Honor of:

Membership Categories

- Individual --- \$40
- Family/Parents' Association --- \$200
- Professional Assoc./Corp. --- \$250

Send Acknowledgment to: _____

I would like to make an additional year-end gift to support future efforts of VOR. An additional gift is enclosed for:

___ \$5,000 ___ \$1,000 ___ \$500 ___ \$250 ___ \$100 \$ ___ Other

Checks made payable to VOR, or by credit card: **Visa** **MasterCard** **Discover**

Card Number: _____

Amount to charge: \$ _____ Expires: _____ CVC (3-digit security) Code: _____

Signature: _____

If the minimum dues requirement poses a financial difficulty, please contact our office in confidence (877-399-4867). It is our best interest that you receive VOR's information, so please call if \$40 per year poses a financial hardship. If you have included VOR in your estate planning, please let us know. If you would like additional information about your planned giving options, please call Julie Huso at VOR, 605-370-4652 or jhuso@vor.net. **Feb 13NL**



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*A national, non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer association
 speaking out for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities*

Annual Conference, Legislative Briefing & Dinner (Sunday, June 9, 2013)
Registration Form – Return to VOR

836 S. Arlington Heights Rd., #351 • Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
 Fax: 605-399-1631 • thopp@vor.net • Phone: 877-399-4867 (toll free) or 605-399-1624

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City, St, Zip _____
 Home Phone _____
 Work Phone _____
 Email _____
 Sponsoring Organization: _____

INITIATIVE REGISTRATION

_____ I/We will attend the Washington Initiative and will be able to
 make Congressional visits through _____ [specify date(s)]

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS APPRECIATED

_____ An Additional donation of \$_____ is enclosed.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Fee includes all Sunday, June 9 events including
 conference registration and plated dinner.

VOR Members:

- _____ \$100 per member if paid by **April 1, 2013.**
- _____ \$110 per member if paid by **May 1, 2013.**
- _____ \$125 per member if paid after **May 1, 2013.**

Non-VOR Members:

- _____ \$125 per person for **non-member** if paid by
May 1, 2013. Fee includes 1 year membership.
- _____ \$150 per person for **non-member** if paid **after**
May 1, 2013. Fee includes 1year membership

Amount to Charge: _____

Charge card: MC Visa Discover

Expiration date: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

3-Digit Security Code (back of card) _____

Signature _____