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RESEARCH NEWS

1. What do the academic studies say about community-based care? A review of the legislature

Massachusetts Coalition of Families and Advocates, Inc. * August 6, 2012 * By David Kassel Summary:

This review directly refutes the claim that is constantly made by opponents of the developmental centers that academic research has shown that all people benefit from community placements.

This review shows that while many studies have concluded that many people have benefited from being moved from institutions to community group homes. many studies have also concluded that many

people have not benefited from that switch to the community, particularly those who have the most severe and profound levels of intellectual disability and those who are older.

[Read entire blog, including a list of studies and articles reviewed, and comment here.](#)

STATE NEWS

2. Utah State Developmental Center Offers Respite Services

Centers for Persons with Disabilities as Utah State University * August 2012

The Utah State Developmental Center (USDC) Respite Services in American Fork, Utah is holding an Open House on August 15.

The Respite Service unit is separate from other USDC programs and has partnered with USDC and the Utah Division of Services for Persons with Disabilities will provide temporary support for families and providers who need a short break from the routine care they provide. Currently there are nine beds open to qualifying individuals, who may register to stay for up to fourteen days or for as little as one day. Respite Services will be open to individuals who are 18 years and older. To qualify the individual must be currently receiving services from DSPD. Individuals, or their guardians, must choose USDC as their Respite Provider prior to their stay. For those who qualify, application forms are available at the [USDC Website](#). For more information contact Curtis Downing, the [USDC](#) Respite Services Unit Director, 801-763-4000.

3. Illinois: Bill to overhaul Department of Human Services' investigations gets bipartisan support; Haine says deaths should prompt questions

Belleville News Democrat * August 3, 2012

State Sen. Bill Haine, D-Alton, will sponsor in the Senate a measure that would require the Illinois Department of Human Services to immediately contact a coroner and local police when a disabled adult living at home dies and the agency has received a hotline call alleging neglect or abuse of the person. Citing a Belleville News-Democrat investigation, Haine, a former prosecutor, said it's wrong that the agency's inspector general does not investigate a death on the grounds that a dead person is no longer

"eligible for services" from the agency.
"It's been a while since I led an investigation, but I seem to recall from my time as state's attorney that when someone dies, that's usually a good time to ask questions, not close the books," Haine said.

[Read more here](#)

Related news: [State lawmaker: DHS 'failed' in protecting disabled adults](#)

[Related editorial](#)

4. Massachusetts: Why Glavin should stay open

Editorial by David Kassel * *News Telegram* * July 24, 2012

The Patrick administration's claim that Glavin is more expensive per resident than the average community-based resident is based on an apples-to-oranges comparison of residents in the two systems of care. Contrary to the claims of the Massachusetts Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers, the Glavin Regional Center in Shrewsbury performs a vital role in the care of some of the most profoundly intellectually disabled residents in Massachusetts. We strongly disagree with statements by Gary Blumenthal, president of the ADDP, that Glavin is not a caring and cost-effective center for care for its current residents ("Closing Glavin is the right choice," *Telegram & Gazette*, July 18).

[Read more and comment.](#)

5. California: The [Parent Hospital Association \(PHA\) at Sonoma Developmental Center](#) responds to allegations of abuse

Most of you are aware that a story about an individual who worked at Sonoma Developmental Center and used a taser on some of the residents has recently hit the airways and many of the local papers. (See list of links below.) We are all shocked and saddened by the fact that such a thing can and did happen.

[Read more.](#)

See also, a [Sonoma Index-Tribune article](#) featuring an interview with Kathleen Miller, President of PHA-Sonoma and related [editorial](#) ("*If you talk to the parents and guardians of some of those 531 SDC patients, three compelling impressions emerge. First, they treasure the opportunity to have their loved-ones housed in such a scenic. secure. generally carina and*

geographically convenient facility. **Second**, they are concerned that the quality of care has begun to decline as staff levels drop. And **third**, they fear that the state has an unspoken agenda to shrink the patient population until the vast, and admittedly expensive, facility is forced to close. If there is one word most often uttered by parents to describe the communication they receive from the state's Department of Developmental Services, it is "secretive.")

ADVOCACY TOOLKIT: HELPFUL RESOURCE

5. Review of State Medicaid Integration Plans

The State Medicaid Integration Tracker is published each month by the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD). This resource is organized by states. Choice advocates may find this resource helpful to monitor "integration" plans in their states.

Founded in 1964, NASUAD represents the nation's 56 officially designated state and territorial agencies on aging, as well as state disability agencies. NASUAD's mission is to design, improve and sustain state systems delivering home and community-based services and supports for the elderly and individuals with disabilities and their family caregivers.

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