



Speaking out for people
with intellectual disabilities

www.vor.net



VOR Weekly E-Mail Update

News and views for VOR advocates

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1. VOR's Weekly E-Mail Update gets a facelift

Dear {FIRST_NAME|VOR Member},

Thank you for supporting VOR. Your advocacy, membership and contributions are so appreciated.

This week, we are launching a new look for our long-standing *VOR Weekly E-Mail Update*. Published each Friday, it will continue to feature the VOR organization updates, action items and news that you have come to appreciate and count on. We are working on a fresh new look, one that will continue to evolve as we receive feedback.

Let me know what you think about this e-newsletter and any other VOR programs and services. We value you opinion/

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tamie".

Tamie Hopp
Director of Government Relations & Advocacy
Editor, Weekly E-Mail Update

2. New York System of Care in Crisis: The "Used and Abused" investigatory series and related related articles.

Update: [New York has Recommendations for reform are expected to be released this fall; state oversight laws were passed in the final days of session;](#) and [Pay for Heads of N.Y. Nonprofit Groups Will Be Scrutinized.](#)

Reaping Millions in Nonprofit Care for Disabled August 2011

New York State spends, by far, more than any other caring for people with developmental disabilities: \$10 billion this year, and roughly 20 cents of every dollar spent nationally. More than half of that money goes to private providers with little oversight of their spending. And the providers have become so big and powerful that they shape much about how the system operates, from what kinds of care are emphasized to how much they will be paid for it.

[Read more.](#)

The Shame of New York's Group Homes

March 2011

Nearly *four decades* ago, amid repeated scandals, New York State closed the huge state hospitals that essentially warehoused the developmentally disabled. Now, an investigation by *The New York Times* has shown that New York's group homes for the disabled — thousands of widely dispersed, state-licensed residences that were intended to replace and mitigate the cruelty of the warehouses — have themselves gone to rot. [Read more.](#)

Abused and Used

A Disabled Boy's Death, and a System in Disarray

June 2011

Since 2005, seven of the institutions have failed inspections by the State Health Department, which oversees the safety and living conditions of the residents. One was shut down altogether this year.

[Read more.](#)

VOR response: Immediate Reform As Breakdown of New York System for People with Disabilities Becomes Apparent

June 2011

(Hugo and Cristy Dwyer, VOR's New York State Coordinators, delivered this message at a public hearing on June 10 and continue to provide input to New York policymakers on VOR's behalf)

VOR was deeply saddened to read yet another article in the New York Times about New York State's failure to serve its citizens with disabilities. As a national advocacy organization, VOR supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The people we represent are served in all types of care settings, from family homes to community homes to licensed facility-based homes (ICFs/MR). VOR is uncompromising in our support of the principle that a continuum of quality care options is necessary to meet the vast array of individual needs across the disability spectrum. We are no less uncompromising in our support for high quality care in all settings. The happiness, well-being and very survival of the individuals depending on these services require nothing less.

[Read more.](#)

Judge Orders New York to Move Mentally Ill Out of Large, Institutional Housing

March 2010

New York State must begin moving thousands of people with mental illness into their own apartments or small homes and out of unlicensed adult homes that keep them segregated from society, a federal judge ordered on Monday.

[Read more.](#)

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