



Speaking out for people
with intellectual disabilities

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VOR Weekly News Update

News and views for VOR advocates

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

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VOR and You

1. [Seeking volunteers for VOR committee service](#)

VOR * June 22, 2012

VOR's strength rests on the time, talent and ingenuity of our board and committee members, with much of the work getting done in committee.

VOR has a number of standing committees and we'd like to make sure that VOR members have the opportunity to indicate your interest to serve on the committee(s) that reflects your interests and availability. We are also seeking candidates for VOR's Board of Directors for the term beginning July 1, 2013.

[Descriptions of each VOR Standing Committee and form to indicate in your interest in serving on a VOR Committee and/or the VOR Board of Directors is available here.](#)

Forms can be returned to:

Email: finkensrc@aol.com (Sybil Finken, VOR Co-President)

Fax: 605-399-1631

U.S. Mail: VOR, P.O. Box 1208, Rapid City, SD 57709

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann Knighton, VOR co-President

Sybil Finken, VOR co-President

2. REMINDER: [Your financial support is needed to maintain VOR's effective advocacy and take us to new heights](#)

VOR * June 22, 2012

As a member of VOR, you know the difference between talk and action. For 27 years, VOR has supported a full continuum of residential options and individual and family decision-making rights.

Choice remains under siege. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has assumed the mantle of our greatest threat, seeking ICF/MR closures in several states, including Virginia, Georgia, Illinois and Arkansas. Thanks to VOR, H.R. 2032 now calls for individual and family decision-making authority in P&A and DOJ actions, and VOR has provided legal advocacy in states impacted by federal lawsuits. To curb these activities nationally, we have called on Congress to halt these actions and condition federal funding on respect for choice.

DOJ is not invincible.

Forceful families and VOR support helped dismiss a DOJ case in Arkansas and secure a better settlement in Illinois. The action in Virginia presents our best opportunity yet to dismantle DOJ's ideology and misuse of *Olmstead*. Already, they have gained intervention on behalf of their family members with a federal judge agreeing that ICF/MR residents have a federally protected right, under *Olmstead* and the ADA, to receive the appropriate care of their choice." Intervenors, supported by letters from more than 100 families and a [VOR statement in support of choice and family decision-making](#), also secured [potential improvements to a settlement agreement proposed by DOJ and the State](#). Negotiations for a final agreement are still pending, but families will have a seat at the table.

VOR's [legal advocacy program](#) is making a big difference in [Virginia](#) and many states. VOR is the only national voice for choice in these legal debates. **We must remain effective.**

Will you help with a financial contribution today? No amount is too small. Collectively we can make a difference. Read more or donate online today! **Thank you for your support.**

3. Members' Voice: VOR Member Needs Survey Results

VOR * June 2012

With the help of consultants Richard Male and Associates (RMA), VOR surveyed its entire membership seeking feedback on VOR's overall effectiveness through a series of multiple choice and open ended questions. [414 responses were received by RMA and are summarized here](#). The VOR Board, elected by the membership, are considering carefully all comments and are generally very pleased to receive many positive and encouraging remarks from the vast majority of the 414 surveys received. All input is being considered by the board as they continue to work to put together a detailed strategic plan to lead VOR into the future.

[VOR's 2012 Member Survey Results \(Summary\)](#)

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Tel: (605) 399-1624
Toll Free: (877) 399-4867
Fax: (605) 399-1631
Email: info@vor.net

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VOR
836 S. Arlington Heights Rd.
#351
Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007
US



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