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March 21, 2014



Speaking out for people with intellectual & developmental disabilities



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**Reminders:
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VOR Weekly News Update

News and views for VOR Advocates

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VOR and You

1. Will you be by our side when June 2014 arrives?

The VOR's 2014 Annual Conference, *Making it Happen: Reforming Policy and Law in Support of Person-Centered Quality and Choice*, is coming up quick!

[Have you registered yet?](#)

When Sunday, June 8, 2014 arrives we hope you will be by our side. Great speakers have been confirmed and include attorney **Bill Choslovsky**, advocate and author **Kim Stagliano**, and **Kathy Brown**, President of the Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association.

VOR's Washington Initiative, which includes Congressional visits, will occur the week of June 9, 2014. For more information, including registration opportunities, visit VOR's website.

What are you waiting for? [Register today](#) and see you in June!

2. Recording available for VOR's "Regional Meetings - The Need for Advocates to Act Global and Local" webinar

Hosted by VOR's David Hart and Geoff Dubrowsky, VOR's "Regional Meetings: The Need for Advocates to Act Global and Local" Webinar, was held Thursday, March 20 to discuss VOR's new vision for regional meetings between VOR members, families, guardians and like-minded advocates. We discussed the advantages to state-level and national advocacy, networking, and development when advocates in a region have opportunity to connect with one another.

[To watch a recording of the webinar, click here.](#)
[To download the presentation \(PDF\), click here.](#)

3. Smiles for VOR with Amazon

Many of our members have taken advantage of *AmazonSmile* while shopping at Amazon for the benefit of VOR, and so can you.

Here's how: When you shop at *AmazonSmile*, Amazon donates 0.5% of your *AmazonSmile* purchase price to the charitable organization of your choice. Who will you support? Choose VOR ("Voice of the Retarded") as your 501(c)(3) charitable organization and support VOR every time you shop at [AmazonSmile](#).

4. New Online Research Tool: Find the Best – Intermediate Care Facilities and more

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[FindTheBest](#) is a free online research hub that equips people with information and research tools to access to information on hundreds of topics, including [a listing of Intermediate Care Facilities](#) with the ability to search by city, state or region.

VOR shares this website as one of many resources and makes no guarantee as to the accuracy, adequacy, currency or completeness of the *FindTheBest* listing.

STATE NEWS

5. Utah: Concurrent Legislative Resolution Expresses Support for Utah Developmental Center's Master Plan to provide services to people with intellectual disabilities

Utah State S.C.R. 5 Enrolled * Signed by Governor, March 12, 2014

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor expresses their support for the Utah State Developmental Center's (USDC) master plan to provide services for people with intellectual disabilities.

Excerpts

WHEREAS, USDC's mission is "dedication to providing an array of resources and supports for people with disabilities with complex or acute needs in Utah";

WHEREAS, the USDC vision is to "provide an effective, efficient array of critical services and supports that promote independence and quality of life for Utah's most vulnerable people with disabilities in partnership with families, guardians and the community"; and

WHEREAS, by following the master plan, USDC is in a position to better assist people with disabilities to achieve their highest potential in an atmosphere that preserves personal dignity:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, expresses support for the Utah State Development Center's master plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah State Center, the Utah Department of Human Services, and the Utah Department of Health.

[Read the complete resolution here](#)

6. New Jersey: Worries grow as New Jersey Developmental Centers Prepare to Close

***The Daily Journal* * March 19, 2014**

"That's been the message," said Joanne St. Amand, president of the Woodbridge Developmental Center

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Parents Association, whose sister is a longtime resident of the facility. St. Amand said relatives are being told there is no space available at the Green Brook or Hunterdon facilities, where 50 people already are on waiting lists.

"That's the tragedy. The majority want an alternate developmental center, but they are at capacity, and the only choice is going to the three down south [located about 100 miles away]," said St. Amand.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

7. Florida's waiting list tops 20,000

According to the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, more than 20,000 people with developmental disabilities (DD) are still waiting for basic services: support for activities of daily living, personal care, and medical and dental care.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

LEGAL NEWS

8. Court-Approves Comprehensive Settlement on behalf of Adult Home Residents

Bazon Center * March 18, 2014

U.S. District Judge Nicholas Garaufis approved earlier this week a comprehensive settlement agreement that will provide approximately 4,000 residents of 23 large "adult homes" in New York City the opportunity to live in their own homes. "Adult homes" are large board and care homes serving primarily people with serious mental illnesses.

Attorneys for the residents and the U.S. Department of Justice reached the landmark agreement with New York State, ensuring that residents with serious mental illnesses will receive the financial assistance and services they need to live in their own homes and to integrate into their communities.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

Quality in Communities: Learning by example

9. Seniors Create Their Own Communities in Cities:

Governing * MARCH 7, 2014

More and more seniors are creating naturally occurring

retirement communities, forcing cities to rethink zoning laws and how they provide services.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

Quotable

"I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed." — Michael Jordan

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Calendar Reminders:

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

AHCA/NCAL's fifth annual "ID/DD Residential Services Providers Hill Fly-In." Questions? Dana Halvorson, dhalvorson@ahca.org.

June 8, 2014

VOR 2014 Annual Conference and Initiative:

"Making it Happen: Reforming Policy and Law in Support of Person-Centered Quality and Choice"; Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C.

Register today!

Week of June 9, 2013

VOR 2014 Congressional Initiative: Families and advocates visit Capitol Hill.

Sunday, October 5, 2014

American Health Care Association's 2014 ID/DD Residential Services Day during AHCA/NCAL's 65th Annual Convention & Expo at the Gaylord National Harbor just outside of Washington, DC. Registration will open in Spring 2014.

Archives

*** Thursday, March 20, 2014**

VOR's "Regional Meetings: The Need for Advocates to Act Global and Local" Webinar.

***Social Media Strengths: Using Facebook and Twitter to Advance Your Cause (VOR, July 2013).** [Visit VOR's website for a copy of the powerpoint presentation and an audio of the event.](#)

*** How Congress Works Webinar: [Recorded - Listen Here.](#)** Tuesday, April 23, 2013 - 12:00 pm central / 1:00 pm eastern. How Congress Works: The Basics. Hosted by Peter Kinzler and Larry Innis.

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