



Speaking out for people with intellectual & developmental disabilities



www.vor.net



/VOR



@VOR_NET



VOR4Choice



info@vor.net

**Reminders:
Help VOR Grow!**

**Join or Donate
to VOR Today!**

About VOR

May 8, 2015

VOR Weekly News Update

News and views for VOR Advocates

[About VOR](#) * [Refer a Friend](#) * [Donate](#)

There is still time to join VOR in Washington.
[Register](#) for VOR's Conference Now and [Make Hotel Reservations Today](#) (the deadline for VOR's hotel block is today, May 8). For details, [visit VOR's website](#).

VOR and YOU

1. ***The Weekly E-Mail Update*** will be taking a break until June 19, 2015

FEDERAL NEWS

2. The federal government's cruel pursuit of deinstitutionalization

STATE NEWS

3. **New Jersey:** Senators Urge State to Let Adults With Disabilities Stay at Out-Of-State Facilities

4. **South Carolina:** Senate bill would phase out Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

QUOTABLE by Robert Collier

COMING UP: Next issue of the *Weekly E-Mail Update* will be June 19, 2015. Watch for an Action Alert on June 7, 2015 to support our advocates in Washington, D.C.

Calendar Reminders

VOR and YOU

1. ***The Weekly E-Mail Update*** will be taking a break until June 19, 2015

The Weekly E-News Update will be going on hiatus until June 19, 2015 as VOR prepares for its [VOR Conference and Washington Initiative](#).

The next issue will be published Friday, June 19, 2015.

In the meantime, you will receive periodic emails

from us, including an Action Alert on or about June 7 to support the efforts of our Initiative participants in Washington, D.C.

FEDERAL NEWS

2. The federal government's cruel pursuit of deinstitutionalization

***COFAR Blog* * May 5, 2015 * by David Kassel**

When is the federal government — particularly the Department of Justice — going to recognize or admit that deinstitutionalization of the developmentally disabled hasn't worked as planned?

The DOJ seems to have closed its eyes to the realities on the ground in continuing to file lawsuits around the country to close state-run care facilities. This has caused “human harm, including death and financial and emotional hardship,” according to information compiled by VOR, a national advocacy organization for the developmentally disabled [COFAR is a Massachusetts affiliate].

[Read more, COMMENT and share](#)

STATE NEWS

3. New Jersey: Senators Urge State to Let Adults With Disabilities Stay at Out-Of-State Facilities

***NJSpotlight* * May 5, 2015**

Legislators' appeals to administration officials to allow adults with disabilities who have lived outside of New Jersey for most of their lives to stay where they are made no progress yesterday.

State officials continue to argue that these adults can be better monitored at New Jersey facilities; that they deserve to live in homes that are integrated into communities: and that the

**Join or Donate
to VOR Today!**

About VOR

state can receive more federal funds that can serve more residents if they're returned.

The families of some of these adults have been [fighting efforts to return them from out-of-state facilities](#). While school districts still place children with developmental disabilities in out-of-state residential facilities to meet their educational needs, New Jersey has had a policy for several years of bringing them back when they've grown up.

There are still 382 adults who are living in these out-of-state placements, while 170 have been brought back to small group homes as part of the Return Home New Jersey program.

[Read more, COMMENT and share](#)

4. South Carolina: Senate bill would phase out Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

AbcNews4 (Columbia, SC) * April 29, 2015

The state agency serving South Carolina's disabled may soon answer to new leadership.

State lawmakers on Wednesday discussed Senate bill 600.

The bill would eliminate the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. State Senator John Scott (D-Richland) says he received several complaints about the agency on various topics.

“A bunch of providers I met with who were complaining about how DDSN was treating them and they were afraid to come forward simply because they were afraid of being retaliated against,” Scott said.

Similar complaints were made by a mother in a public hearing held in Columbia.

“This is an agency that has chosen over the

years to ignore Supreme Court rulings regarding eligibility, duty of care, federal regulations,” she said.

Scott says he and other lawmakers want to investigate how DDSN is being run.

“I want to get to the bottom, to the real facts,” Scott said. “Cause I think this agency, when we get to the bottom, we're going to find that this agency is completely out of control.”

The agency is overseen by a seven-member board of volunteer commissioners. While those commissioners are appointed by the Governor, the Governor does not appoint the agency's director.

“One of the things that we did not do as a general assembly, we allowed the board to appoint a director but we do not vet that person in the general assembly. So, there's no checks and balance,” said Scott.

Wednesday, Scott recommended forming an investigative committee.

“We are going to be spending time getting information in, doing our own investigation, allowing people to come forward who have information, when we have the next subcommittee meeting to allow people to come forward to provide their testimony.

Scott says it will take several weeks to complete their investigation. There is no date set for a vote.

[Read more, COMMENT, and share](#)

QUOTABLE

"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day-in and day-out." ~ Robert Collier

Calendar Reminders:

Sunday, June 7, 2015:

[VOR Annual Conference: ADVOCATING FOR CHOICE BY EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES. Registration Open.](#)

Sunday, October 4, 2015 * San Antonio, Texas:
[Leading the Charge for Compassionate Care: A Day for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Residential Services Providers](#)

Sponsored by the American Health Care Association and the National Council on Assisted Living

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.

VOR
836 S. Arlington Heights Rd., #351
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
Email: info@vor.net

Tel: (605) 399-1624
Toll Free: (877) 399-4867
Fax: (605) 399-1631

[JOIN VOR. DONATE TO VOR. MAKE A DIFFERENCE](#)

[Click here](#) to forward this email to a friend

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

vertical DELIVERED BY
response
Try It Free Today!

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.