



Speaking out for people with intellectual & developmental disabilities



www.vor.net



/VOR



@VOR_NET



VOR4Choice



info@vor.net

**Reminders:
Help VOR Grow!**

About VOR

VOR Weekly News Update

News and views for VOR Advocates

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

[THANK YOU SPONSORS and PARTICIPANTS](#)

VOR and YOU

1. **VOR's Julie Huso heads to South Carolina**
2. **Build an Effective Community to Build Effective Advocacy**

STATE NEWS

3. **Louisiana:** Audit details how La. uses and pays for facilities for people with developmental disabilities
4. **New Jersey:** Vineland Developmental Center campus to possibly become rabbinical school
5. **Texas:** Disability Groups Hope Turnover Leads to Reform

AUTISM NEWS

6. Medicaid Must Cover Autism Care for Kids, but What About Adults?
7. Study Points To More Reliable Autism Test

LEGAL/FEDERAL NEWS

8. Deal Reached On Tax-Free Disability Savings Accounts
9. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to announce resignation
10. Lawsuits Often Fail To Satisfy Either Side Of ADA Coin
11. The Ridiculous 'National Wellness Week': Federal agency uses tax money to urge us to drink fruit smoothies and make "sacred" drums.

QUOTABLE, by Henri-Frederic Amiel

Coming Up: Social Media Advocacy Communities

**Make a Lasting
Impact with a
Will Bequest**

**Reminders:
Help VOR Grow!**

Calendar Reminders

VOR and YOU

1. VOR's Julie Huso heads to South Carolina

VOR * September 2015

Press release – excerpts

Julie Huso, Executive Director of VOR, a national organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, will represent VOR at the South Carolina Association of Residential Care Homes Conference on September 29, 2014.

“We know from our national advocacy that service options are decreasing,” said Huso. “That comes as a surprise to many families and advocates, but service cuts are resulting in fewer and fewer choices, especially when it comes to specialized care provided in residential settings.”

The [South Carolina Association of Residential Care Homes](#) represents assisted living, residential care facilities, home care, home health and hospice groups throughout the state, providing care to individuals with disabilities and the elderly.

Huso will also meet with families of residents of the Coastal Center in Summerville. Coastal Center is a licensed facility home providing specialized supports to more than 150 people with profound intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“Families are the most effective voice for their disabled loved ones,” Huso said. “They know best. It is critical that families be on the frontlines educating legislators and state officials about the unparalleled, comprehensive

About VOR

Make a Lasting
Impact with a
Will Bequest

About VOR

and highly specialized care provided at Coastal and the State's other Regional Center homes. These centers are a true community of residents and caring people.”

[Read full release and share](#)

2. Build an Effective Community to Build Effective Advocacy

**Government Affairs Matters * KnowWho *
September 2014**

We live in an online world where social media has replaced the advocacy and community building strategies of the past. Social media is a very powerful tool, and if your organization isn't using it effectively, you're being left behind. The opportunity and the tools are there, but building an effective advocacy community takes time and effort. Here are a few keys to building a great community leveraging Social Media: [Excerpts] Content, Consistency, Engage, Promote, and Feature.

[Read complete article here](#)

VOR Editor's Note:

As members and advocates you are part of VOR's family, part of VOR's community – but, **are you part of VOR's Social Media community? We need you! You are our voices.** Connect today with VOR and become part of our GROWING social media community:

[Facebook](#) (/VOR)

[Twitter](#) (@VOR_NET)

[YouTube](#) (VOR4Choice)

STATE NEWS

3. Louisiana: Audit details how La. uses and pays for facilities for people with developmental disabilities

**Make a Lasting
Impact with a
Will Bequest**

WAFB (ABC 9, Baton Rouge) * September 22, 2014

A [new report](#) from the Louisiana Legislative Auditor highlights how [Medicaid Intermediate] care facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities [ICFs/IID] are used and paid for in the state.

It shows a positive outlook for Louisiana, which is ranked No. 6 in the nation for usage [of Private Intermediate Care Facilities] and No. 12 for overall quality of care. The Department of Health and Hospitals-licensed facilities that were the focus of the report provide residential care for a group of people who need 24 hours a day of active treatment.

The report shows there are 524 such facilities in Louisiana and 60 percent of them are full. The facilities are paid for by federal Medicaid funds and designated rate payments from DHH. Those rates haven't changed for a while, but in November, voters will decide on a constitutional amendment that would lock DHH's rates where they are currently, which is the lowest in six years.

The report was done as the state continues to plan Medicaid managed care for people with long term care services.

[Watch newscast, comment and share](#)

[Read full auditor's report](#)

4. New Jersey: Vineland Developmental Center campus to possibly become rabbinical school

***South Jersey Times* * September 24, 2014**

The facility that was once the Vineland Developmental Center's West Campus is being eyed by a Lakewood-based developer, who wants to turn it into a rabbinical school.

State Sen. Jeff Van Drew (D-1) and Rabbi

Shlomo C. Kanarek stopped by Vineland City Council Tuesday evening to informally pitch the idea to the city, with plans to meet at a later date to discuss the proposal further.

Kanarek is from Vineland, he explained to council, and explained that the previous Vineland Developmental Center area would make a calm and serene location for the rabbinical school.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

5. Disability Groups Hope Turnover Leads to Reform

The Texas Tribune * September 25, 2014

As an entirely new roster of politicians takes statewide office next year, disability rights advocates are asking those future Texas leaders to work with lawmakers to address a struggling system of care for the state's most vulnerable population.

But while their traditional allies in elective office — Democrats — appear up and down the ballot, those candidates are running well behind their Republican counterparts. And at a statewide candidates forum in Austin on Wednesday hosted by the disability rights groups Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, ADAPT of Texas and The Arc of Texas, not a single Republican candidate made an in-person appearance.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

AUTISM NEWS

6. Medicaid Must Cover Autism Care for Kids, but What About Adults?

Kaiser Health News * September 22, 2014

It's getting easier for parents of young children with autism to get insurers to cover a pricey treatment called applied behavioral analysis. Once kids turn 21, however, it's a different ballgame entirely.

Parents of older children have a few options. Some state autism mandates don't have age caps, including New York, California, Massachusetts, the District of Columbia, Wisconsin and Indiana.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

7. Study Points To More Reliable Autism Test

Disability Scoop * September 23, 2014

Assessing how quickly the brain responds to sights and sounds could offer a more precise and earlier method to diagnose autism, new research suggests.

In a study of 43 kids with autism ages 6 to 17, researchers found a correlation between the severity of a child's symptoms and how quickly they process different stimuli.

For the research, the children were asked to press a button as soon as they heard a tone, saw a visual image or were presented with both the tone and image. Meanwhile, the kids' brain activity was measured using an electroencephalogram, or EEG.

Children who took the longest to respond when presented with an auditory prompt had the most pronounced autism symptoms, according to findings published [online](#) this week in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

LEGAL/FEDERAL NEWS

8. Deal Reached On Tax-Free Disability Savings Accounts

***Disability Scoop* * September 19, 2014**

Federal lawmakers say they've reached a deal to move forward on legislation that would establish a new way for people with disabilities to save money without jeopardizing their government benefits.

Members of the U.S. Senate said Friday that they have an agreement that will allow the Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE, Act to proceed.

The bill's chief sponsors and leaders of the Senate's Committee on Finance said in a joint statement that they expect the legislation to be considered when Congress returns to Washington in November.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

9. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to announce resignation

***Chicago Tribune* * September 25, 2014**

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced his resignation on Thursday, September 25, 2014. Reportedly, he has "no immediate plans once he steps down," a Justice Department official said.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

10. Lawsuits Often Fail To Satisfy Either Side Of ADA Coin

***The Modesto Bee (California)* * September 23, 2014**

No matter which side they're on, the people involved in disability access lawsuits seem to have one thing in common: supreme frustration.

People with disabilities are tired of feeling like second-class citizens when they meet obstacles parking, shopping or using a restroom because of a building's features.

Companies slapped with lawsuits — almost always generated by frequent filers demanding big money — say they've been shaken down.

Lawyers complain when newspapers explain their strategies. They also blame legislators for not fixing the problem.

And legislators point fingers at one another for making reform nearly impossible.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

11. The Ridiculous 'National Wellness Week': Federal agency uses tax money to urge us to drink fruit smoothies and make "sacred" drums.

***National Review* * Opinion by E. Fuller Torrey *
September 17, 2014**

[VOR Editor's Note: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA), the focus of the commentary below, also oversees Protection and Advocacy for Mental Illness, the mental health counterpart to P&As for people with developmental disabilities, which are overseen by another HHS agency, the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD)].

Just when you thought you had seen all the ways that a federal agency can waste taxpayers' money, think again. SAMHSA, the \$3.5 billion Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, part of the Department of Health and Human Services, has come up with an entirely new way. SAMHSA has achieved notoriety in the past for commissioning a \$22,500 painting for its offices and for putting on an \$80,000 musical for the entertainment of its 574 staff members. But SAMHSA is not

content to rest on its laurels and has proclaimed the week of September 15–24 to be National Wellness Week.

Unfortunately, SAMHSA only does mental wellness, not mental illness.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

QUOTABLE

"There is no respect for others without humility in one's self." ~ by Henri-Frederic Amiel

Calendar Reminders:

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 information and the schedule can be found [here](#).

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

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

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



[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.