



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. A VOR Head's Up: P&A Advocates Cracking Down On Sheltered Workshops**
- 2. Ohio:** Parents of disabled fear push for community living will close care centers – VOR quoted
- 3. New Jersey:** Opinion: Bottom line is it's about the bottom line

FEDERAL NEWS

- 4.** Lawmakers push new savings account for people with disabilities
- 5.** What is the Result of States Not Expanding Medicaid?

AUTISM NEWS

- 6.** New Sites Added To Autism Treatment Network

RESEARCH NEWS

- 7.** Developmental Disorders More Common Than A Decade Ago

QUOTABLE, by Lucy Larcom
Calendar Reminders

VOR and YOU

- 1. A VOR Head's Up: P&A Advocates Cracking Down On Sheltered Workshops**

Disability Scoop * August 15, 2014

Editor's Note: This next article is about efforts by the

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

**Reminders:
Help VOR Grow!**

national Protection & Advocacy (P&As) association urging its members - state-level, federally funded P&As - to “aggressively review the practices employers in their area that pay people with disabilities less than the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.” Translation: P&As are targeting sheltered workshops in states around the country. Most interesting are the comments in response to this article which resoundingly support employment choice. Just who is P&A representing? You are encouraged to lend your voice and comment.

Advocates Cracking Down On Sheltered Workshop

A nationwide effort is underway to lodge federal complaints against sheltered workshops that are not fully complying with the law.

The National Disability Rights Network [National Protection & Advocacy Association] — an umbrella group for the federally-mandated protection and advocacy organizations in each state — is asking its members to aggressively review the practices of employers in their area that pay people with disabilities less than the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.

[Read more, COMMENT and share](#)

Here is one comment which is representative of most: *“ . . . I hope your next story won’t read that tens of thousands of individuals have lost their jobs in sheltered workshops and have been unable to find employment elsewhere because their productivity doesn’t meet employer expectations. One size does not fit all.”*

STATE NEWS

2. Ohio: Parents of disabled fear push for community living will close care centers – VOR quoted

About VOR

Make a Lasting
Impact with a
Will Bequest

About VOR

Columbus Dispatch * August 18, 2014

The word conjures images from a dark novel, the father thinks, not the bright and comfortable room with the Mr. Rogers poster, flat-screen television and Martha Stewart wingback chair.

“I take issue with this being labeled an institution,” Larry Koebel said. “This isn’t some kind of Dickens place.”

Koebel’s youngest son, 43-year-old Doug, has severe developmental disabilities. He lives at the Grove City-area branch of Franklin County Residential Services, a collection of three buildings with six large apartments that feature common areas, on-site support staff and private suites for 24 people with developmental disabilities.

But what the Koebels view as a safe, amenities-rich home is seen by others as a segregated institution, one that — despite good intentions — deprives people of true community living and inclusion.

The federal government, including the Department of Justice, is sharpening its focus on access to community-based settings and services. And the legal-advocacy group Disability Rights Ohio has threatened to sue the state if officials don’t act soon to sharply reduce the 7,000 or so Ohioans with developmental disabilities who live in private intermediate-care facilities and state-run developmental centers.

But **VOR**, a national advocacy organization that opposes eliminating institutional options, says that Disability Rights is citing the cases of a few to impose sweeping change on families who don’t want it.

Years ago, people with disabilities were regularly subjected to inappropriate living and workplaces, said **Tamie Hopp, VOR’s director of government relations and advocacy.**

“We’ve gotten to the point of overcorrection.”

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

Hopp said. "We question the policy behind targeting people who have good care as a means of helping those who don't."

[Read more, comment and share](#)

3. New Jersey: Opinion: Bottom line is it's about the bottom line

The Record (North Jersey) * August 14, 2014 by Valerie Vainieri Huttle

This is one of those times that test our moral obligation to our most vulnerable citizens.

Taken at face value, the Return Home New Jersey program might sound warm and fuzzy. But for a certain group of New Jersey residents, as well as their families, this program is less like a Hallmark moment and more of a disruption to their entire way of life.

I'm talking about the New Jersey residents who are suffering from severe developmental disabilities who have been living at out-of-state facilities for years because these facilities are designed to provide the right level of care for their unique needs. These same residents are now being ripped from the only home they've known for years and forced to come back to New Jersey when it might not be in their best interest.

In Governor Christie's recent conditional veto of a bill (A-3475) I sponsored that would place a moratorium on these types of transfers, the governor stated we must ensure individuals with developmental disabilities receive the services and support that best accommodate their unique needs in the least restrictive setting. The governor's action proves otherwise.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

FEDERAL NEWS

4. Lawmakers push new savings account for

people with disabilities

***The Hill* * August 16, 2014**

Members of Congress are on the verge of creating a new, tax-free savings account for people with disabilities in what would be a rare burst of bipartisanship in an election year.

The vast majority of Democrats and Republicans in both chambers are behind the Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE, Act, which would create the new accounts.

Supporters on and off Capitol Hill say the new savings option is needed because people with Down syndrome, autism and a host of other disabilities now face a disincentive to work or go to school.

That's because they face four-decade old limits on how much they can save (\$2,000 in all) and earn (\$700 per month) without losing eligibility for benefits under Medicaid and Social Security.

Under a new, slimmed-down version of the ABLE Act, people with disabilities would be able to stash away an extra \$14,000 a year in a savings account similar to what parents can use to save for their children's college education.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

[VOR Supports the ABLE Act: Read our Legislative Positions here](#)

5. What is the Result of States Not Expanding Medicaid?

***The Urban Institute* * August 7, 2014 by Stan Dorn, Megan McGrath, John Holahan**

In states not expanding Medicaid, 6.7 million residents will remain uninsured in 2016 as a result. These states are foregoing \$423.6 billion in federal Medicaid funds from 2013 to 2022.

lessening economic activity and job growth. Their hospitals are also losing \$167.8 billion in Medicaid revenue. Every comprehensive state-level fiscal analysis that we could find concluded that expansion helps state budgets, generating savings and revenues that exceed increased Medicaid costs. Future federal cuts to ACA's high federal match rate are unlikely. Of more than 100 federal Medicaid cuts since 1980, just one lowered the federal share of Medicaid spending.

[Read the complete document here](#)

AUTISM NEWS

6. New Sites Added To Autism Treatment Network

***Disability Scoop* * August 19, 2014**

Two more medical centers will soon join a national network designed to provide a one-stop shop for autism care.

New sites in Missouri and California will be added to Autism Speaks' Autism Treatment Network in September, bringing the total number of centers in the United States and Canada to 14.

Facilities that are part of the network offer a central place where kids and adolescents with autism can see everyone from pediatricians to psychiatrists, neurologists and gastrointestinal specialists with experience treating those on the spectrum.

In addition to treating children with autism, the medical centers also conduct research. Officials with Autism Speaks said they will be putting added emphasis on investigating health conditions associated with autism going forward.

What's more, member facilities will be increasing training for community health

providers, they said.

The new sites will be located at the Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders at the University of California, Irvine as well as the Knights of Columbus Child Development Center at SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center in St. Louis.

There are existing Autism Treatment Network sites in Rochester, N.Y., Boston, Philadelphia, Little Rock, Ark., Nashville, Tenn., Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, Columbus, Ohio, Columbia, Mo., Toronto and Edmonton, Canada.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

RESEARCH NEWS

7. Developmental Disorders More Common Than A Decade Ago

Disability Scoop * August 19, 2014

The number of children with disabilities is on the rise, largely due to growth in incidence of mental and developmental disorders, researchers say.

A [new analysis published](#) Monday in the journal Pediatrics finds that between 2001 and 2011, there was a 16 percent increase in the number of kids with disabilities.

Though children living in poverty remain more likely to have disabilities, the study found that the greatest increase in diagnoses was seen among children from wealthier families.

For the study, researchers looked at data on nearly 200,000 kids from the National Health Interview Survey — a routine government poll of parents with children up to age 17 — collected between 2001 and 2011.

As part of the survey, parents were asked if their child had various limitations or disabilities and, if so, what condition the difficulties stemmed from. Deficits were then divided into

three groups — physical disabilities, neurodevelopmental or mental health conditions and other.

Nearly 6 million American children — or roughly 8 percent — have a disability, the study found. Though the prevalence of physical disabilities declined over the study period, significantly more parents said that their children had neurodevelopmental or mental health issues in 2011 as compared to a decade earlier.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

QUOTABLE

"He who plants a tree plants a hope." ~ Lucy Larcom

=====

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.