

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

September 12, 2014



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 and the Kentucky Concerned Family Network** file joint comments in response to State Olmstead Compliance Plan
- 2. VOR Presents on Rights of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Families**
- 3. VOR's "Pendulum"** article makes print edition of Nonprofit Quarterly

FEDERAL HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES RULE

- 4. VOR Member Public Comments in Response to State Transition Plans**
- 5. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Statewide Transition Toolkit: Medicaid HCBS Settings Rule**
- 6. Disabled Workers May Get Other Jobs in Community Under New Home and Community Based Services Federal Rule**

COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- 7. Robert McCarthy, Esq. Editorial:** When disabled children become adults, parents often are left with few options
- 8. Maryland Protection & Advocacy Responds to McCarthy Editorial**

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

**Reminders:
Help VOR Grow!**

(above): “Closed institutions are not the problem for developmentally disabled adults”

STATE NEWS

9. Colorado: Task force created to review Colorado regional centers for disabled

10. Illinois: Groups Fighting to Keep Murray Center Open Honored by State Organization

SPECIAL EDUCATION

11. Inclusion Rates For Special Education Students Vary By State

QUOTABLE, by Alfred Hitchcock

Calendar Reminders

VOR and YOU

1. VOR and the Kentucky Concerned Family Network file joint comments in response to State *Olmstead* Compliance Plan

September 9, 2014

Earlier this week, the statewide Kentucky Concerned Family Network (KCFN) and VOR filed joint [comments](#) in response to Kentucky's draft "Olmstead Compliance Plan" (released August 22, 2014).

In our comments, KCFN and VOR:

- Strongly opposed transition quotas, which cannot be person-centered and are contrary to *Olmstead*.
- Called for the inclusion of families and legal guardians as primary decision-makers, consistent with *Olmstead* and federal law.
- Clarity and transparency with regard to

About VOR

Make a Lasting
Impact with a
Will Bequest

About VOR

assessment tools.

- Expressed concern about an Olmstead plan being implemented while the *State* also tries to comply with new Medicaid Home and Community Based Services regulations.
- Expressly requested that KCFN and VOR be fully included "in any future planning, drafting and implementing effort."

Don Putnam, who is a founder and Board Member for KCFN, worked closely with VOR on this effort. Don is also very involved with VOR, serving on several VOR national committees. We are grateful to Don for helping bridge a national VOR and state-level response to Kentucky's draft Olmstead Compliance Plan.

[Read the KCFN and VOR comments here](#)

3. VOR Presents on Rights of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Families in Colorado

VOR * September 12, 2014

ARVADA, CO – Julie Huso, a national advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, spoke earlier this week on the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families at the Jefferson County Public Library in Arvada, Colorado.

A new law creates to study and review the operations of the State's three centers and will consider whether any should be closed. Families of regional center residents are concerned about future closings, a trend facing other states.

"To families. the threat of closure is obvious."

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

said Ellen Laurence, who heads up the Save our Regional Centers coalition, is a member of the Task Force, and also serves as VOR's Colorado State Coordinator. "Although the State has not decided whether or not to close our family members' homes, they are studying the issue."

[Read complete release](#)

Read [related article](#) about the Task Force below, in State News.

4. VOR's "Pendulum" article selected for print edition of Nonprofit Quarterly

***Nonprofit Quarterly* * Summer 2014 (print edition)
* People as Pendulums: Deinstitutionalization and People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (by Tamie Hopp, VOR)**

Aggressive deinstitutionalization has caused more harm than good—people with mental illness now make up a good part of the population in this nation's prisons and jails and on the streets. There is a lot at stake for past and present proponents of community integration—not least, the risk of losing future funding. But, as the author points out, where is our concern for the individual in this debate? While wholesale institutionalization was never the right answer, nor is the current lack of access to necessary supports.

NPQ Editors' note: This article was originally published on NPQ's website, on July 16, 2014

[Read print version here](#)

FEDERAL HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES RULE

4. VOR Member Public Comments in Response to State Transition Plans

The federal regulation defining Home and

Community-Based Settings (HCBS) for the purpose of Medicaid HCBS funding requires that States align their Medicaid plans and settings (residential and employment) with the new regulation's requirements. States must submit a "transition" plan which describes for CMS why current programs are, or will become, aligned with the new regulation. Before submitting their transition plans, the regulation requires states provide for public comment.

In two States – [Kentucky](#) and [Pennsylvania](#) – VOR members have submitted comments.

Additional VOR member comments will be posted on [VOR's website](#) as they are received. To see when your State will be submitted its transition plan, visit <http://hcbsadvocacy.org/>.

5. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Statewide Transition Toolkit: Medicaid HCBS Settings Rule

On September 5, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a toolkit to help States and advocates better understand how state transition plans can align with the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) final regulation's setting requirements.

[Read more](#)

6. Disabled Workers May Get Other Jobs in Community Under New Home and Community Based Services Federal Rule

The Missourian * September 6, 2014

A new federal law will put a greater emphasis on helping people with disabilities get jobs in the community rather than in sheltered workshops.

officials say.

Sheltered workshops are places where people with disabilities can work alongside others with similar issues doing tasks such as packaging and assembly.

But now more people with disabilities may be placed into jobs in the community working alongside others who do not have disabilities.

Bob Engemann, executive director of TEMCO, which runs a sheltered workshop in Warren County, said he thinks the new law is good for people with disabilities.

“As we’re in the 21st century I think you see more and more of an inclusive society,” Engemann said.

However, this does not mean the workshops will go away completely, because there will still be some who need to work in that atmosphere, Engemann explained.

People with disabilities are just like others when it comes to the feeling of accomplishment they receive when they get a paycheck, he said.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES

7. When disabled children become adults, parents often are left with few options

***The Washington Post* * August 29,
2014 Editorial by Robert McCarthy, Esq.**

Advocates for the disabled did harm to the provision of needed services for highly disabled persons. That advocacy has led to the closure of most residential institutions in Maryland that would care for disabled adults, leaving these people to compete for one of the few programs

that remain, live on the street or remain with parents who do what they can in a virtually impossible situation.

I have seen the desperation of parents of special-needs children as they struggle with great demands and few services. This occurs at a great cost to families, and to society. I have seen situations in which parents deliberately had themselves classified as abusive and neglectful to push their children to the head of the line for services.

[Read more, COMMENT and share](#)

(Note: A free registration is required before you can post comments on the Washington Post website)

8. Maryland Protection & Advocacy Responds to McCarthy Editorial (above): “Closed institutions are not the problem for developmentally disabled adults”

The Washington Post * September 7, 2014 Editorial by Nancy Pineles, Managing Attorney for the Maryland Disability Law Center (P&A)

Closing institutions helped free funds to expand home- and community-based services to serve more people at a lower cost in settings the people with disabilities themselves prefer. Individuals with developmental disabilities are the most passionate advocates for closing institutions. The entitlement to institutional care has not changed; what has changed is that people adamantly refuse to live in institutions.

[Read more, COMMENT and share](#)

(Note: A free registration is required before

you can post comments on the Washington Post website)

STATE NEWS

9. Colorado: Task force created to review Colorado regional centers for disabled

The Denver Post * May 19, 2014

A task force created by the Colorado legislature and awaiting the governor's approval would review operations of three regional centers for the intellectually and developmentally disabled.

The bill creating the 15-member task force awaits the governor's signature, and the group would begin meeting in July. State officials say there are no plans to close the centers, despite fears expressed by parents of adult children who are receiving treatment or living at the centers.

The study would include an examination of whether the state should close any centers and whether it should continue operating beds for those disabled requiring the highest level of care and supervision. The task force also would look at whether to add or drop beds.

The regional health centers in Wheat Ridge, Pueblo and Grand Junction offer medical, psychiatric, psychological and therapeutic supports and day program services, as well as long-term residential care.

Parents of the developmentally disabled receiving services at centers said they fear that the Colorado Department of Human Services plans to close the facilities — which state officials deny.

Parents who organized a "Save Our Regional Centers" group fear that changes could include ending residential services that are currently provided to, according to center websites, about 250 developmentally disabled individuals.

"It is scary for parents. We haven't been able to get clear answers," said Ellen Laurence, whose daughter has been a resident at the Wheat Ridge Regional Center since she was 13. She's now 32. [Ellen is VOR's Colorado State Coordinator.]

"Sending them back into group homes or other community settings is fine for some, but it's not safe for others who would be a danger to themselves or others," said Laurence, a Greeley resident.

Her daughter has had 31 surgeries, she said. And, once, without any malicious intent, she broke her mother's jaw. She also had injured several teachers, which led to her being expelled from school before she went to live at the center.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

10. Illinois: Groups Fighting to Keep Murray Center Open Honored by State Organization

WJBD News * September 7, 2014

The President of the Murray Parents Association Rita Winkeler along with the parents organization and the Family and Friends of Murray Center have received a statewide award from the Illinois Advocated for the Developmentally Disabled. The Front Line Award was presented at a Saturday meeting where the groups were brought up to date on the legal effort to keep the Murray Center open. Winkeler was surprised with the award.

"We're honored and humbled. This is from an organization that has been advocating for all of the disabled... [and now] we have to continue the fight. It's the right thing to do" Winkeler said.

In presenting the award, the President of IL-ADD Rita Burke said the plan to close Murray Center is part of a much bigger plan to deny access to 'institutional' care for those who desperately need that level of care. She said Murray was the immediate target, a target that shot back and is still shooting. Burke said families and guardians from the other centers are in awe at the commitment and courage of the Murray people who so capably are fighting for all of them on the Front Line. Burke calls the Murray case a great moment, a pivotal moment, where the future of care for the most severely disabled will be decided. She said together they will save Murray Center and other Centers and save the future for all our loved ones.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

11. Inclusion Rates For Special Education Students Vary By State

Disability Scoop * September 9, 2019

Where a child lives may significantly impact whether they are placed in an inclusive or segregated classroom, a new national analysis suggests.

Regional differences appear to play a role in education placements for students with autism, with those living in the West more likely to attend mainstream classes while students in the Eastern United States are more frequently assigned to segregated settings, according to findings [published online](#) in the journal *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental*

Disabilities.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

QUOTABLE

“There is no terror in the bang, only the anticipation of it.” ~ Alfred Hitchcock

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.

vertical DELIVERED BY
response
Try It Free Today!