

Jacksonville
Developmental Center

Public Comments
as of 10/10/2012

RAJ DHAMRAIT

1805 Appleton Dr.
Springfield, IL 62711
217-622-5929
Rajbo@aol.com

March 6, 2012

Dear Representative or Senator,

My bother Jagdeep "Jag" Dhamrait is a resident at JDC. This is a picture of him taken a few weeks ago after he fell at 4:00 am and suffered a head injury. Fortunately, the caring staff at JDC took him to the hospital immediately and stayed with him when he had sutures placed. You hear so much about understaffing at the community homes - if he were to fall in similar manner in a community home would they have enough staff and resources to handle this situation? Wouldn't they just call an ambulance and have him go by himself - be frightened and be with complete strangers? For those of you that are parents, would you send your three year old in a ambulance by him or herself? Worst yet - my brother can't speak or talk - he functions at the level of a 1 ½ to 2 year old. The thought of community homes frightens me....severe understaffing, high turnover, lack of training, lack of supervision, etc. On the attached page you will find pictures of some of my brother's extended family.... some of his caregivers at JDC. These people know him... he trusts them....they understand himand they love him and care for him deeply. Please don't take this away from him.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Raj Dhamrait







March 7, 2012
(Patrick Mc Dermott's
52ND BIRTHDAY)

To: CGFA Commission Members,

My name is Lynn Mc Dermott. This is my son Patrick. I PC had been his home for the last 28 years. His SAFE, CALM, CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT

Patrick cannot deal with the demands & changes of community living, he becomes agitated, extremely self abusive & violent to others & himself. I had to stop bringing him home for visits at Christmas & summer vacation because he couldn't adapt to the changes.

Patrick is mentally (1) one to (2) two years old. He has no idea what a male or female is or that sex even exists. He would be easy prey for an unscrupulous person to do him harm & abuse & rape him.

Patrick is on a strict medication regime to maintain control & his well being.

PLEASE - PLEASE - PLEASE

DO NOT CLOSE JDC & TAKE MY /
SON'S LIFE & HOME AWAY

Sincerely,

Lynn Mc Dermott, Mother & Guardian
5915 S. NORMANDY AVE.
CHICAGO, IL, 60638
1-773-307-5713



COBHA Hearing
Illinois College
Jacksonville, Illinois

March 7, 2012

COBHA Hearing Members;

My brother Patrick A. McDevitt became a resident of Jacksonville Developmental Center, 28 years ago after the closing of the Lincoln Developmental Center.

Patrick is now 52 years old today - Happy Birthday Patrick! He is legally blind, non-verbal with a diagnosis of Profound Retardation - rigor unknown.

After his move to Jacksonville, from Lincoln it took much time for him to become comfortable and settled which he did due in large part to the trained and caring staff who took care of him every day.

Everyone on his unit, Bill East, Dave become a family - a caring, loving family - and Patrick found his place there. Patrick enjoys his daily life now and it would be very detrimental for him for all that to change now.

Patrick as do many developmentally challenged people do just take to change easily and I feel its unconscionable to make this change just because this is the "trend" as the Governor wishes to do!

As we all know friends come and go.
Those special people and their needs are
much more important! They deserve the
best quality of life we all can provide
for them. They do not deserve to be moved
around like pieces on a chess board!
I am sure you can feel in his heart of
hearts that this move would benefit God's
most special people is beyond me and all
the other families.

Patrick as well as all the others
Jacksonville Developmental residents deserve
not to have the faith and trust they've
placed in you betrayed.

Please do not fuel fire on their
home!

It's time for you all to stand up
and do what is right and just - not theory!
This matter greatly affects peoples lives -
lives we all have a sacred trust to uphold.

Respectfully,

Jane M. McDermott
5915 S. Hammond Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60638
773-307-5915



March 7, 2012



Carl Jones, bottom left, is pictured with his brothers, from left, Michael, Glenn, Mark and his sister Karen Osgood. Carl Jones lives at the Jacksonville Developmental Center, which the governor has proposed closing. PHOTO COURTESY EARNEST JONES

This is our son Carl Jones. He is 48 years old. He lives here at J.D.C. Carl is not suitable for living in a group home. He has no speech, does some signing all the staff at J.D.C. understand his needs, there are many of them.

The staff at JDC are the best and we can not thank them enough for all their patience and watchful eye's that is needed to care for our son.

Please do not close J.D.C. This has been the best home we have found for our son.

Thank you
Earnest & Shirley Jones

My brother's name is Bobby. I am briefly mentioning several concerns that I have:

1 – group home unfamiliar with the resident.

Bobby's living area has residents with medical needs. They are non-verbal and many are in wheelchairs. JDC staff know how to interpret their facial expressions and mannerisms which is something that takes time to learn.

2 – staff needed for the safety and care for the residents.

It hasn't been stated, but I imagine that a small group home has 1 (maybe 2) caregiver for 4 people as compared to 3-5 per living area plus a nurse at JDC. Most of these residents are completely dependent upon the staff. One concern is in case of fire or tornado.

3 – support will be lost.

Despite the intentions, support for various services will not be the same. Bobby's annual review last year was attended by 9 staff personnel from various disciplines that are needed for his care. That comprehensive and integrated care and support will not be there.

4 – case load of works monitoring the homes.

It is stated that monitoring will be done weekly for 8 weeks, then monthly for the remaining 10 months. Thereafter, I would suspect annual reviews, which would be anticipated by the home.

5 – more budget cuts and Medicaid overhaul.

Once the residents are in the community – they will be lost in the crowd. Cuts to services will not have the faces of these Developmentally Disabled persons.

6 – unpaid bills

What happens to these residents if the home can not stay open because they are not being paid and can not pay their bills?

7 – Bobby receives federal money.

Most goes to DHS for his care and a few dollars are in an account for spending. Will this continue? Who receives it? Who will be responsible for seeing that it is spent correctly? Currently I receive a quarterly report accounting for the money.

8 – assessment reviews.

These are going to be done by outside people who will see a snapshot of the resident. JDC staff is supposed to have input, but the assessor is being paid to move residents from JDC. How much of what the staff says, will have weight?

9 – concern for the medical needs.

Bobby will need a 24 hour nurse and many times the JDC staff doctor is called in order for him to be taken to Jacksonville hospital for evaluation or admittance. I know that many times it is in the middle of the night, because I am called to give permission to send him.

10 – JDC

Asbestos was recently removed from the building that Bobby lives. From working in Revenue, I know that money is not supposed to be transferred from one fund to another. But if JDC closes, that is money that was just wasted or could have been put to changing the heat and cooling systems from coal (which is what I was told last fall was one of the reasons JDC was being considered for closure.

Thank you for being here tonight and to listen to what we, as family members, have to say.

Donna Bischoff

Donna Bischoff

(continued from p. 1)

Bobby and each resident in his home/living area have needs that are medical. He shares a large room with 3 other men, but each one has his own wardrobe and chest-of-drawers and my brother has a TV. Each resident's bed has pictures or other items that reflect their individual interests and personalities. When you walk into the area, the air smells fresh, not like some institutions that I have entered.

I was glad to hear at the February 7th hearing in Springfield that you wanted cost analysis given to the COGFA committee. Please check if the costs associated with some of the concerns listed below are included in that analysis. Thank You.

** It was not stated, but I imagine that a small group home has only 1 care-giver for the residents.

A provider is supposed to sign a contract for zero rejection. If the provider decides that they can not handle the care that is required of those with medical needs, what happens to the resident after the contract date is up?

In last Saturday's March 3rd meeting with DHS, Mark Dole of the Governor's office stated "We will surround them with people who care about them." How can that be in a small group home? The residents ALREADY have people who care about them. On Bobby's area, the residents are non-verbal. The staff is wonderful in taking care of them. They know how to calm them, how to comfort them, and what makes each one happy. They know their likes and dislikes and what to talk to them about. They know each of their mannerisms, facial expressions, moods, and therefore can tell when something may be physically wrong. That is something that takes a lot of time and a lot of patience to learn and is so important to their well-being. Remember, these are non-verbal residents that can not even tell you that they hurt, let alone where they hurt. If these residents have to move, it will be a difficult, frustrating, and confusing time for them.

Mr. Dole also said: "We will connect them with a person, not paid, to be sure the plan stays current and the resident stays safe." There was not any elaboration as to what that means! Who would be non-paid, except a family member, to really care about these residents? Every year at JDC there is a review for each resident. Last March 2011, Bobby's annual review was attended by 11 people: 9 staff personnel, myself, and a teleconference call was also set up for our brother who lives in Bellevue, WA (north of Seattle). The 9 staff attendees: QSP who oversees all disciplines of Bobby's care, Day Program Representative, Dietitian, Direct Support Professional, Nurse, Psychologist, Speech Pathologist, HMAI (Home Manager who oversees the QSP), plus the physician was asked to attend as my brother and I had specific medical questions to discuss. These are the people who care about him and will keep him safe.

Also on Saturday, I believe that Kevin Casey, Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities at DHS stated that the facility where the resident is placed would be monitored for a minimum – weekly for 8 weeks – monthly for remaining 10 months – and quarterly was stated, but not in writing for which a time was not mentioned. From my experience in knowing people who do "case work", there is not adequate time, nor people to monitor cases properly because agency headcounts are continually being reduced, including case-workers. So, to me, the monitoring of each small group home that these 184 residents of JDC plus X-number of Murray is not realistic.

Several times Mr. Casey made promises (unfortunately I did not make that notation in the notes I took) that said "as long as I am the program director ...". I worked and retired from the Dept of Revenue. I know that the Agency heads and program directors are on 4 year contracts (unless that has changed in the last 8 years). So I know that those promises are only good as long as he is there or possibly broken because there are more budget cuts.

In the Governor's budget speech recently, he stated "at the end of the current fiscal year, Illinois will have \$1.9 billion in unpaid Medicaid bills." I do not know the current make-up of what program – federal or state - pays for my brother's bills. I do know from a report that I receive each quarter that the state receives federal money in Bobby's name from social security. About \$20 goes into an account for his personal needs and the rest is transferred to DHS. Will this money go to the group home or to DHS and will the home be accountable for how the money is spent? Will this federal money be enough to sustain the home with the state being so far behind in its payments? (I have heard that some payments are 9 mos behind). What happens to these residents if the facility/home can't stay open because they aren't being paid?

Governor Quinn also stated: "We also need to move forward to fundamentally restructure our Medicaid program, which is on the brink of collapse." A few sentences later: "In order to reduce cost pressures, we need to reconsider the groups who are eligible for Medicaid, the services we cover under the program, the utilization of these services and the way and amount we pay for them." If these residents are "in the community" then when these services are cut or how they are paid for, will affect these JDC residents without anyone in government realizing who they are really affecting.

Developmental Disabilities under the DHS website

(<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=54691>), currently states: *Other Support Services - Adults and children already receiving services may also be provided supports such as respite care, adaptive equipment and occupational, speech, language, physical or behavior therapies depending on the availability of funding.* As far as I know, physical therapy was cut at JDC several years ago because of the lack of "availability of funding". Most of these other services are part of the resident's quality of life. Once these residents are disbursed throughout the community, their voice will be lost.

DHS letter of March 3, 2012 states that Assessments will be done by "professionals who have not previously worked with the individual". Also, "combined with ongoing evaluation and input from JDC staff, ..." I am concerned that the independent assessor, who is being paid to move the residents from JDC, will only see a snapshot of the individual and not understand the full range of behaviors that can be exhibited throughout a longer time period. I am concerned that the JDC staff's input will not have a full impact.

Several residents are non-ambulatory. My brother can not stand by himself due to his severe arm and leg contractures. It takes two people to move him between bed,

wheelchair and chair. He is 5'10" and approx 145 lbs. He needs to be repositioned every 2 hours or more frequently. He is watched for sores and if a sore does appear, it is taken care of immediately.

Probably from being in a wheelchair for a long time now, my brother has developed osteoporosis and a mechanical lift is used to help the staff do his bathing and other times such as moving him between chairs and bed.

There are a couple of other services that I am concerned for the wheelchair bound residents.

1 - Currently, JDC has a wheelchair accessible van that takes them to doctor appointments. I know there are community vans that can take them, but who will pay for that service? What distance can the van go out of the town they are in?

2 - There is a maintenance person at JDC that can fix the wheelchairs if something has broken, and he has modified/adapted wheelchairs to fit an individual's need. How will that be taken care of in a small group home?

3 - A JDC attendant accompanies each resident to the doctor's appointment. How can a small home do that? When residents are taken to stores for shopping, wheelchair residents must have one attendant to push the wheelchair.

4 - What about safety in a fire or tornado as Bobby can not do anything for himself. He is completely dependent upon the caretaker.

These are just some of the necessities that are part of these residents' life that unless you are involved with them, you don't realize how important the small stuff matters.

Bobby requires a nurse 24 hours to check his vitals (pulse, respiration, temp, O2 level, etc), and give medicines and treatments. I have received phone calls in the middle of the night to let me know & to give permission to send him to Jacksonville hospital for evaluation. The nurse discovers a medical need and calls the JDC's staff doctor who decides the course of action to be taken. The following situations happen frequently:

- pneumonia
- drop in his oxygen level
- his carbon dioxide level recently was extremely high

He has frequent trips to SIU doctors for the following conditions:

Replace the G/J feeding tube. Several years ago a non-Springfield facility placed the tube incorrectly and he was starving to death. Since then I insist that the tube be replaced only in Springfield.

Recently a baclofen pump has been inserted under his skin to deliver medicine through the spinal cord to help the extreme leg contractures (his legs do not straighten). The amount of medicine that is distributed by this pump has to be monitored every few months which is done in Springfield.

Botox injections have recently been added to help with his arm contractures which, like his legs, do not straighten. These injections are to be administered every 3 months by a Springfield doctor.

4

A word about the buildings: Last fall, my brother from Bellevue, WA was here and we were visiting Bobby, someone mentioned that one of the reasons for closing JDC was the expense of using coal to heat and the maintenance of the boilers. The state just spent money on removing asbestos from the building that Bobby is currently living. Isn't there some way to modify the heating and cooling system to become more efficient? If not, please review the costs associated with all of the services that are needed as far as having these residents in one general area as opposed to providing these same services at each one of the small homes.

These are just the items that I can think of for now. I am sure there are more that should be added.

Again, Thank You for Listening.

Donna Bischoff

Donna Bischoff
Springfield, IL (originally from Quincy)

I am Tonda Stouffe, a nursing supervisor, at JDC and as of Oct. 16 started my 40th year working here so I do know a little about the individuals living here and the treatment they receive. For some of the people they have no family other than the staff and JDC. We are there for the birthdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas and the funerals. Our staff over the years has been the organist, the minister, the family who gathers to pay tribute to the person and the pallbearers who carry them on the final leg of their life's journey. The individuals have many health issues which the medical staff treat and take care of. When they need surgery or have an injury it is the staff who is there taking care of them and giving them a hug and wiping away the tears. We deal with the behaviors which are exhibited due largely from frustration or not going through the normal growth stages where you learn you do not always get your way.

We do work with people and teach them so hopefully one day they can go out and live in the community but for some this just does not seem to be a workable solution. There are many who have gone to group homes and failed and had to return due to the group home not having adequate training or staff to handle the acting out behaviors. In an attempt to handle the behaviors, they are prescribed medication to control them. We have repeatedly sent people out on one medication or none and have them return on anywhere from 9 to 13 medications to control the behaviors. This is not right and should not be done. They return to use and we have to take them off the medications again and work them back up to the level where they were before they left us. Some people are at a developmental level where they will never be appropriate for a group home and we have seen over and over they die within 3-6 months after being placed in a nursing home. They do not always get as good care and are not as closely monitored as they are at JDC. When people go to the hospital they are not always checked as closely as they should be because they are scary to the staff. They make noises or look different and it scares people so they avoid them. We have places where if we make an appointment they want us to come before or after they close or through the back door so it does not upset other customers and this is not right. There are also places in this community that will not treat these people at all or if they do we have to go to the ER to be seen so where are they going to be seen and treated while in the group homes if we have that much difficulty with a Doctor referring them to another Doctor for treatment. JDC has always had Doctors on staff to take care of the medical needs until it gets to the point they need emergency treatment or a specialist. I find it very frightening that the staff in the group homes, which could be any of you sitting in this room off the street, are going to provide all the medical care the people need. I just learned the only thing that requires a nurse to do is to take care of anything that has to be inserted into the body such as a suppository or to administer an injection. The nurses at JDC are monitored on medication administration, the care of the Feeding Tubes, Tracheotomy care etc. continuously but once in a group home it will be performed by whoever is there. This scares me and it sickens me to think that the lives of these people we have cared for over all these years are less important to some than we would want provided to our parents as they age and cannot take care of themselves.

The group homes are great for some but not the answer for all. There have been many that have blossomed in the group homes and I am happy for them but this is not the answer for all. I do have a concern that when we have meetings to transition people to group homes that one of the first things they are concerned about is getting them of food stamps or link cards so they can get their food. I have a problem with homes that we are placing people in relying on link cards to

feed them. We do not use food stamps or link cards at JDC but we do teach the people who are capable what voting means, the process of voting, take them to get their cards and to vote in the elections. We are a teaching facility and do not want to hold anyone back but JDC is a needed place for some and I hope you see this and keep us open so we can continue the care these people deserve.

Toni Stapp, PSA
RV +
LTC, ANC

The
Book
of
JDC

FROM
MIDPACNET
KENNEDY

I ALSO
THANK YOU
THE FUN
~~WE~~ HAD LIKE
SENSE

OR I LIVED
HERE AT
THE SAME TIME
I BEEN
HERE

I. ALSO

ENJOY

HAVE

A ROOM

with my

roommate

MY STORY ABOUT MY HOME WHERE I LIVE AT JOC

MY HOME AT JOC WHERE
I LIVE? THEY TAKE VERY GOOD
CARE OF ME ^{NICOLE} KENNEDY

EVERY MORNING MY GROUP WAKES
ME UP ^{LEADER} EVERY MORNING
WE GO TO WORK 7:00 AM WE EAT A
DELICIOUS BREAKFAST
~~WE~~ USUALLY WE HAVE FRENCH
TOAST AND PANCAKES
SAUSAGE AND COFFEE WITH SUGAR
AND CEREAL COMPLETES

And FOR SUPPER
we usually HAVE
SPAGHETTI MEAT
SAUCE AND
GREEN BEANS
TEA BREAD WITH
BUTTER, BLUE BERRIES
FOR EVEN STARK
we have BEAN
BUTTER JELLY SANDWICH

Air The STAFF

make sure

were Showed

Daily TOOKED

Careted US

ever minute

of Day/Night

AND I THINK
ALL MY STAFF
HERE AT JONES
AT WERE TALKING
A VERY CAREFUL
ABOUT ALL OF
US JONES
AT JDC

I ALSO ENJOY
ARTS ^{BOYS} CRAFTS
WATCH TV

WITH MY FRIEND

DOING COMMUNITY
OUTREACH WITH MY
FRIENDS HERE AT
JONES HERE HOW

I LIVE IN MY
HOME JPR

I want
to save so
for my
Friend but
I live with
they are very
Good Friend to
me they are
SAD to For there
HOME JUST like
I am IDC

FOR OUR SNACKS
ON TRIP OWN SNACKS
FROM SNACK BOXES
WHICH NAME OWN
IT THAT WE BUY TO
WITH OUR MONEY
WHEN WE GO ON
OUR COMMUNITY
STORE TRIPS
WHICH I ENJOY
GOING ON WITH
MY FRIEND ILLVA

The

Book

of

DDC

Food

Bevies Kenah

5000

5000
5000
5000



I thank
ever
STAFF
ever

ever
ever
Cookbook
BodyFood

Hot Dues
FOCUS I want
NICKERKISS

Testimony to COGFA

in support of Jacksonville Developmental Center and other SODCs

by Wayne Ryerson, Treasurer, Illinois League of Advocates for the Developmentally Disabled (IL-ADD)

March 7, 2012

All SODC residents are entitled under both federal and state law to ICF/MR level of care (which in Illinois includes SODCs or ICFs/DD) due to the extremity of their conditions and intensity of their needs. Closure advocates say that all SODC residents can be served in the community (no matter how challenging their behavior disorders, fragile their medical conditions, or grave their need for 24/7 medical, professional, pharmaceutical, behavioral, and other skilled care) if only the community were developed such that it could provide adequate supports and services. But the promise of a more supportive community care system to address extreme needs has just been turned on its head.

Illinois has hired Community Resource Alliance (CRA) and adopted as its own, their radical concept of what "community" should look like- it is not the community we now know or understood was to be developed, but an unstructured, unsupervised, unaccountable community where our loved ones will be at high risk. Under the tyranny of this vision, choice is out the window and clients and providers alike will knuckle under and comply with CRA's (and now Illinois') radical new concept of community.

- "**CRA will decide which assessments are required** and virtually no one should need all of them." (Doc. 2 pg. 6)
- "CRA will not be responsible for transitions to another SODC" (Doc. 2 pg. 6)
- "[T]he [provider] agency becomes a support for building community competency- so that the community can help people who have disabilities become functioning citizens - **with the least amount of specialized support from the human services agency as is possible.**" (Doc. 3 pg. 2)
- As providers provide less, clients will transform into citizens. (Doc 3)
- "Settings are likely to be 1-2 persons and never more than 4 persons." (Doc. 5 pg. 1)
- If the home has 3 beds or fewer, it "**should not be required to have licensure.**" (Doc. 2 pg. 6)
- "Collaborate with affordable housing options to **maximize the ability of providers to separate services from supports** whenever possible." (Doc. 2 pg. 2)
- 5 Star Quality Model is a "**redefinition of success.**" It is "**not about paper compliance or abstract policies and procedures**" but by "**what we see when we see it.**" (Doc. 3 pg 1)
- providers will be rated higher for **quality** on this 5 star scale depending on how thoroughly they shift their responsibility for services, for care, for accountability, from themselves to the nebulous community at large. (Doc. 2)
- Only providers who embrace this brave new world vision will be preferred. "The intention is to develop a database of providers that agree to meet the criteria that has been established for acceptable providers, **including agreeing to embrace the values and principles of this project.**" (Doc. 6 pg 1)
- "Support individuals to **learn from their mistakes,**" and "staff are **encouraged and rewarded to take reasoned risks.**" (Doc. 3 pg. 7)
- "Will **fully collaborate with ARC**"; "actively seek the involvement of stakeholders like ARC, Family Support Network, Institute on Public Policy, IARF, Don Moss and Independent Living Council;" **guardians will be "listened to."**
- "We recognize the **urgency** of the situation. We know we **must act quickly** and yet deliberately and effectively." (Doc. 5 p. 1)

The "URGENCY" is created by the Governor's reckless plan to move 600 vulnerable SODC residents to a community where they will be underserved, imprisoned, abandoned, or dead under the banner of "**independent community living**"- to the everlasting disgrace of this state.

Good Evening,

My name is Joanne Dorn (from Woodford County) and I am guardian for my 61 year old brother, Gary Volk, who is severely-profoundly mentally retarded, non-verbal, with a mental capacity of an 18 month old. He has a history of hurting himself and others along with medical problems.

His behavior has become stable since he was admitted to JDC several years ago after being discharged from a group home of 4 people. **That was his 3rd unsuccessful placement in the community.** The expense of caring for him in the community was very costly to the agency providing home and day treatment and also for the hospital, doctors, ambulance, and law enforcement who responded to his of aggression. They all said they could no longer treat him in the community setting.

Without the trained staff, doctors and psychiatrists at JDC I don't what would have happened to him. JDC is the safety net for individuals such as my brother who need the skilled care provided at this facility. Should JDC close, Community providers will lose the ability to send individuals who are harmful to themselves and others to the safe place JDC provides. Furthermore, JDC is centrally located so my incidents family and I can frequently visit him. **JDC is the best possible placement for Gary and I want him to continue to live there!**

Now the Governor's plan calls for sending my brother back to a community provider. This will not work as our experience has shown and will put his safety and that of the public at risk. JDC is the best option for my brother.





221 East State Street
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650
217.479.4627
FAX: 217.479.4629
www.jredc.org

March 7, 2012

Mr. Dan R. Long, Executive Director
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL, 62706

Dear Director Long and Members of COGFA:

The Jacksonville REGIONAL Economic Development Corporation, the Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Jacksonville Main Street Organization, and the Jacksonville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau are all **adamantly** opposed to the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC) in Jacksonville, Illinois. Our organizations are made up of nearly 900 members (industries, businesses, professionals, non-profits, and civic-minded individuals). When issues of the magnitude of this proposed closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center arise, we are not ones to sit idly by. Therefore, **all** of us want you, the members of COGFA, Governor Quinn, the Illinois Department of Human Services, and the General Assembly to **clearly** understand that we **do not** want to see the closure of this valuable facility as a means to solve any of the State of Illinois financial woes!

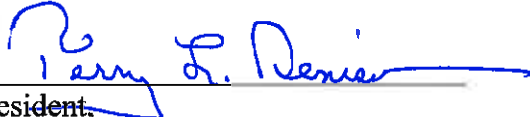
Our Region has suffered through the loss of more than **1,700** jobs since the year 2000. The consequence has been higher unemployment, lost population, retail and service businesses closing, a higher poverty rate, a lowering of the quality of life, and lost tax revenue for our communities and county because of these job losses. In addition, business and industry recruitment is almost nonexistent in downstate Illinois, which adds to the struggle of economic development. It makes keeping what we have even more important!

Now, with the proposed closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center, the loss of **another** 413 jobs, and its \$21 million payroll, the result will be **catastrophic** for our Region. The **IDHS Economic Impact Study** cites total **employment loss** numbers related to the closure of JDC at 591 which includes Direct, Indirect, and Induced jobs.

And, **total labor income** lost from these same types of jobs at almost **\$47 million**. The closure of this facility will have a **severely negative** impact on our Region.

In closing, we want to thank you for the opportunity to present the economic facts about how important the Jacksonville Developmental Center is to all of us. And, again, on behalf of all of us, our 900 members-**and most importantly**, the residents and families of the Jacksonville Developmental Center-**Do Not Close this Facility!**

Sincerely,



President,
Jacksonville Regional Economic
Development Corporation



1314 West Walnut • Jacksonville, Illinois 62650 • 217-245-9504
www.elmcity.org • email: ecc@elmcity.org • FAX: 217-245-2350

**COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND
ACCOUNTABILITY.
HEARING ABOUT CLOSING
JACKSONVILLE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER
March 7, 2012**

TOM FREDERICK, PRESIDENT CEO

Elm City Center has served people living at JDC for over 50 years. The people we serve range from individuals who are very independent to individuals with serious behavior issues/limited abilities who need high levels of care. We believe that the range of services offered to a person should be based on their needs whether it is a home, apartment, day program, community based residential, or a state facility. I have had many people who live at JDC and come to our day programs ask me "What will happen to me and why is this happening?" JDC is often been their only home and for some it has been a safe haven from past events in their lives. For others, it is the place to get most of the services they need in one location.

A major assumption in the closure of JDC is that all people can live in the community with individualized and appropriate supports. We agree 100%. The driving question remains what do those supports consist of and what they will cost. The assumption that the supports will cost about \$55,000 per year seems very low when other states average \$100,000 per person per year for community residential CILA placements. If selected people need supports that cost \$500,000, will the funding be there to cover them?

There is a widely held belief that services in a community setting are always cheaper than in state facilities. Simply moving from JDC at about \$165,000 a year to a community based provider at \$55,000 a year seems like an obvious \$110,000 savings. But it is just not reality. Existing residential rates do not cover the additional specialized costs of psychological, medical, medications, behavioral, and legal interventions that are part of JDC's costs.

A major issue to us is the question of rates today one year from now, and 5 years in the future? You get what you pay for. We have looked at providing 4, 6 and 8 bed, community residential operations for the men and women living at JDC. Our operating cost estimates remain about \$320,000 regardless of the number of beds. A 4 bed home requires \$80,000 per year or \$6,700 per person, per month while an 8 bed home is half that amount.

1. Food and utilities may change based on bed numbers, staffing costs do not. Eight FTEs are about \$210,000 a year. To meet that \$80,000 figure, salaries cannot be more than \$10 an hour nor can they have health insurance or retirement plans. While Illinois's minimum wage has risen to \$8.25 over several years, the rates have remained the same. Net result: high staff turn-over (60%+per year).
2. Rates require providers to be very selective in whom they serve. They simply cannot afford individuals with significant behavioral problems that have property destruction, physical injury to self or others, fire setting, PICA, and elopement issues.
3. Recent changes by the US Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division is changing the definition of companionship to no longer be exempt from minimum wage and overtime for every hour worked except in family homes.

Finally, every major project needs to contain an Option B and Option C as contingency plans. Nothing works 100% of the time particularly for major projects like this. What happens to the people involved where community placement simply does not work for whatever reason? It was recently announced that Murray Developmental Center in Centralia will also be closed. Once JDC and Murray are closed there would be no facility from Kankakee to Anna for emergency placements, short term stays, or other living options. Similar closures are happening on the mental health side. Our hope is everyone is successful. We also know from experience that things happen. Virtually 100% of the people we see on a daily basis have lived in the community, in their own apartment, or in a group home. As the only SODC in a 3 hour radius, some version of JDC should remain open to provide the assistance to helping people obtain their maximum level of independence. For some people, a place like JDC is the good place to live.

About the issue of closing SAC

We can't be there for the meeting to say what we think. Read this letter or whatever can do to keep these people where they are. They are God's special children more than us and they deserve our love & help. I had a sister there Laura Deatrow for over 60 yrs - she was loved & cared for in best way. She was content & clean & seemed happy always. Think how you would feel if you were being moved from your life long home.

The ~~Lord~~ Lord always provides if we believe & trust him to help.

Please do all things possible
Thank You.

Don & Leane Smith

218 E South

Mt. Sterling Ill 62353



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Michelle Spurlock

Title: _____

Firm / Business or Agency: _____

Address: 118 Haller City: Woodriver State: IL Zip: 62095

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Tony Paulausk:

Title: Executive Director

Firm / Business or Agency: The Arc of Illinois

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

Send up w/ Advocates
BV.



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Ruth Chumley

Title: Office Associate J.D.C

Firm / Business or Agency: J.D.C Dept of Human Services

Address: 1201 S Main City: Jacksonville State: FL Zip: 62658

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Donnie Edwards

Title: SELF ADVOCATE

Firm / Business or Agency: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Paula Vanier (Paula Vanier?)

Title: _____

Firm / Business or Agency: _____

Address: _____ City: Urbana State: I Zip: _____

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Doris Ross

Title: Mom/Guardian

Firm / Business or Agency: FEMA

Address: 3010-35th Ave City: RI State: IL Zip: 61201

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

I feel it is totally unnecessary to close JDC. I am Parent & Guardian to a Developmentally Disabled Adult. What will happen to the residents if placed in Community & it does not work where will they go?



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Mary Suggs

Title: _____

Firm / Business or Agency: Rethalto

Address: 450 Spencer City: Rockford State: IL Zip: 62010

Email: Marysuggs48@Rethalto.com

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

It was recommended that I live in an institution. I want to live in the community like everyone else. I have also been segregated as a child and felt so isolated. I didn't get to visit/see friends. I now live in my community with family and friends. I love my life.



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Deborah Goodman

Title: _____

Firm / Business or Agency: _____

Address: 3 Miller Lane City: Caseville State: IL Zip: 62232

Email: goodman@impactcil.org

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

Close the institution and give people w disabilities the support they need to live in the community. Families don't raise children to enter into institutions upon adulthood. We have failed to provide support to maintain people in their communities! Shame on us. We can change that now... Let us move forward.



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Charlatta Goodman

Title: _____

Firm / Business or Agency: _____

Address: 3 Miller Lane City: Caseyville State: IL Zip: 62232

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

The institution needs to be closed down. People can live in the community and should get the support they need to stay in their community. People should have the chance to follow their dreams.



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Angela Botz

Title: Community Outreach Coordinator

Firm / Business or Agency: IMPACT CIL

Address: 2735 E. Broadway City: Alton State: IL Zip: 62002

Email: botz@impactcil.org

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

We support the closure of all institutions,
The use of independent living skills,
hearings, support groups, peer counseling
& support is a must!
This is a way to go!
Fund This!



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: X Samantha ELia 2 beth Kieh line

Title: _____

Firm / Business or Agency: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Missy Kichline

Title: _____

Firm / Business or Agency: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: ~~OTIS KISHIA~~ Sarah Shobe

Title: _____

Firm / Business or Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Email: _____

POSITION:

Proponent

Opponent

No Position

TESTIMONY:

Oral

Written Statement Filed

Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: EM BRADLEY

Title: _____

Firm / Business or Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Email: _____

POSITION:

Proponent

Opponent

No Position

TESTIMONY:

Oral

Written Statement Filed

Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: DENNISON LOU

Title: PROFIT MAKE.

Firm / Business or Agency: FAA RETIRE

Address: 3010 35 AVE. City: ROCKFORD State: IL Zip: 61001

Email: MAKE52@MSN.COM

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: JEFF LAIR

Title: MORGAN CO. CORONER

Firm / Business or Agency: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Tim Holt

Title: _____

Firm / Business or Agency: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

*was called
but must
have left.*

*Needs to
catch Bus*



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Tom Frederick

Title: _____

Firm / Business or Agency: Elm City Center

Address: 14 Crestwood City: Jacksonville State: IL Zip: _____

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Wayne Ryerson

Title: Board Member -

Firm / Business or Agency: Illinois League of Advocates for the ^{Developmentally} Disabled

Address: 8644 Carey Ave. City: River Grove State: IL Zip: 60171

Email: WayneRyerson@hotmail.com

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Maria Jones

Title: Mother Guardian

Firm / Business or Agency: _____

Address: 14806 N. Loustone City: Effingham State: IL Zip: 62401

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Brad Shireman

Title: MHT II

Firm / Business or Agency: Mental Health Technician

Address: 1303 Lee Road City: Bluffton State: IL Zip: 62621

Email: None

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS: *I believe the state is doing more harm to the people who live at JDC than anyone realizes. I have worked at JDC and have come to know the people well. They are not capable of accepting change like everyone else. They call JDC their home and do not want to leave. It is more of a family atmosphere than the government knows.*



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Brenda L Bell Brenda L. Bell

Title: Consumer

Firm / Business or Agency: Community-based Services

Address: 1335 S. Diamond City: Jacksonville State: IL Zip: 62552
Apt 103

Email: n/a

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

The people who live at JDC will not have anywhere to live. They need to choose (have a choice) where they live.



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Dennis Kelahan

Title: Retired State of IL employee

Firm / Business or Agency: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

Any JDC patients who could have gone to a group home, would have already been there. They need experienced, skilled care



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Erik Cozzolino

Title: Rehab Case Coordinator

Firm / Business or Agency: Illinois Dept of Human Services

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

The Facility is too valuable to the community. The job loss would result in a significant amount of debt to the state and possibly result in indirect costs to the county/city of Jacksonville. As a public administration major, please take into account the well being of current residents. As an agency employee of DHS, I serve individuals with disabilities on a daily basis. We all care about the public because it's instilled in us as employees.



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Monica Grounds

Title: _____

Firm / Business or Agency: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: Kevin M. Van Camp

Title: _____

Firm / Business or Agency: _____

Address: 1238 Kentucky City: Quincy State: IL Zip: 62301

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:



ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Co-Chair Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg - Co-Chair Representative Patricia R. Bellock

RECORD OF COMMISSION WITNESS

2/7/12

SUBJECT MATTER: Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center

IDENTIFICATION:

Name: THOMAS WHEAT I M 35 YEARS OLD

Title: _____

Firm / Business or Agency: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

POSITION: Proponent Opponent No Position

TESTIMONY: Oral Written Statement Filed Record of Appearance Only

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

FROMPAT
TO M WHEAT QUANT
YEAS PLEASE CLASUSE
JDC DOWN
THE STAFF BUT UP
THE RESIDENTS THINKS

Transitions of Western Illinois

4409 Maine St. • P.O. Box 3646 • Quincy, IL 62305-3646 • Ph: 217-223-0413 • Fx: 217-223-0461

February 9, 2012

Mr. Dan Long, Executive Director
Commission on Gov. Forecasting & Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Dear Mr. Long:

Thank you for holding the hearing on Tuesday, February 7th. Although I am disappointed with the administration's lack of knowledge of the realities that exist and their persistence with a plan based on false statements, I am encouraged by your Commission's holding them accountable.

What follows are a few points that I believe must be understood by the Commission as they relate to the facts not presented by the administration.

Funding following the person into the community is necessary and will need to happen before the expenses at Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC) can stop. So, for approximately a year, the State budget will have to afford increased spending to pay for both.

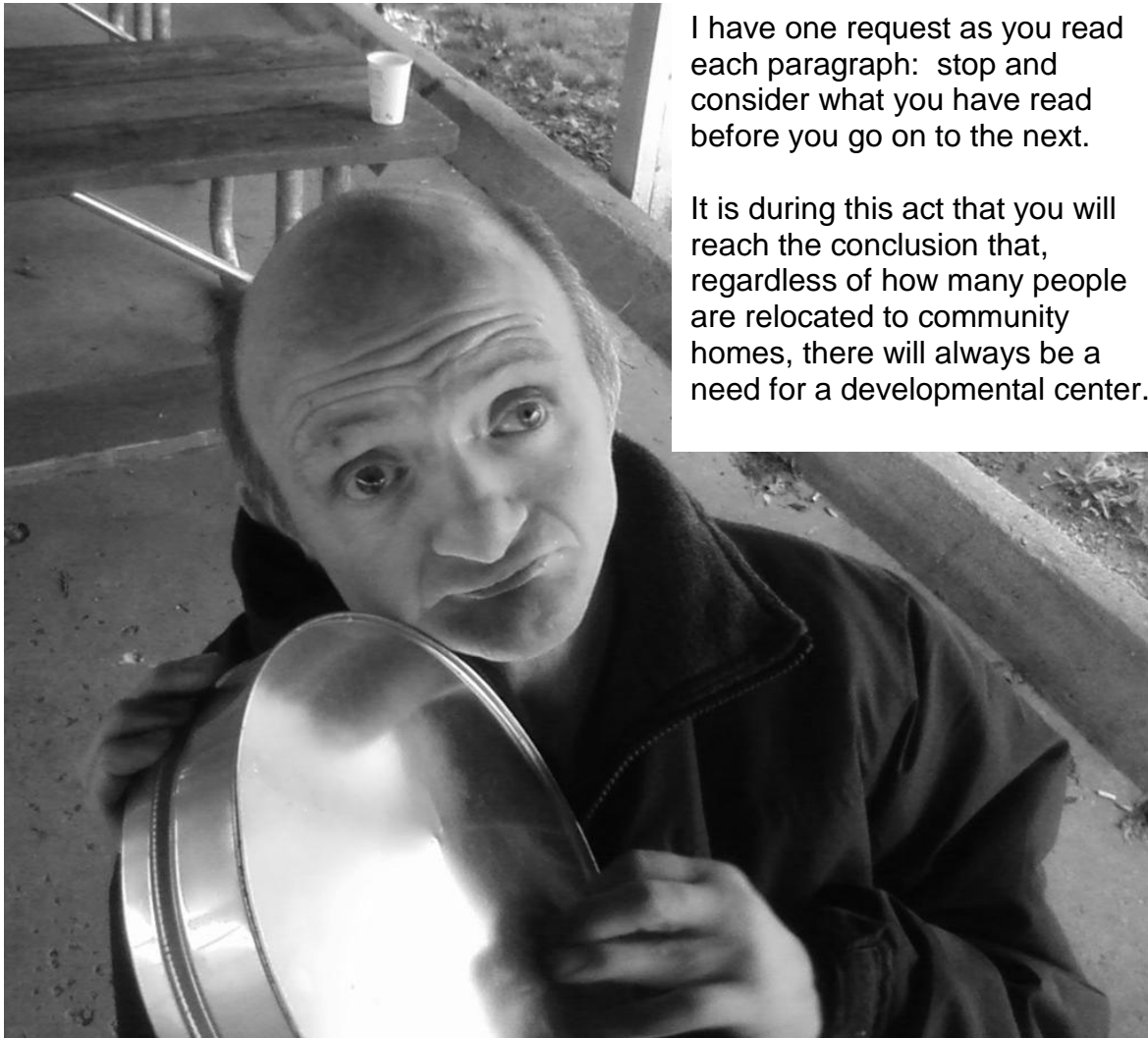
The severely disabled, those with violent behaviors, and medically challenged consumers will still need the support and economies of scale provided by the JDC, and/or a CILA rate that reimburses ALL costs. (CILA: community integrated living arrangement, for 8 or fewer people) Current CILA rates cover 70% of costs. The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), knows this but has done nothing to resolve the funding incongruity. A State of Illinois sponsored rate study identified the problems and solutions. This study was begun in the Fall of 2008 and completed in the Spring of 2009.

Because of the CILA rate structure mentioned above, many, if not most, providers will not be financially able to be involved in moving clients out of JDC. The rate structure should be fixed before moving anyone out of JDC. DDD knows what to do and should be encouraged to implement the results of the rate study.

Moving clients out of JDC should not equate to closing JDC. If there are people currently living at JDC who can be supported in the community at a cost of \$84,000 per year, AND they want to move into a CILA, they should be accommodated. There are some individuals, however, whose needs for care will far exceed that \$84,000 figure – they may require services that could cost 2-2.5 times that figure (\$160,000 - \$200,000/year). You should be aware of that reality.

COMING TO TERMS WITH THE ISSUE

In order to fully appreciate the concerns family members have about a SODC being closed, it is important that you consider the condition of these residents and to compare these conditions to the plan currently under consideration. I am asking that you take a few minutes to read this document as an exercise to broaden your perspective. Our family will be deeply grateful.



I have one request as you read each paragraph: stop and consider what you have read before you go on to the next.

It is during this act that you will reach the conclusion that, regardless of how many people are relocated to community homes, there will always be a need for a developmental center.

Mental retardation is a generalized disorder characterized by significantly impaired cognitive functioning and deficits in two or more adaptive behaviors that appears before adulthood. Adaptive behavior includes the age-appropriate behaviors necessary for people to live independently and to function safely and appropriately in daily life. Adaptive behaviors include real life skills such as grooming, dressing, safety, safe food handling, school rules, ability to work, money management, cleaning, making friends, social skills, and personal responsibility expected of his age and social group.

Using my brother as an example, he is reliant on others to groom, dress, feed, and protect him. He will never learn in a school environment, never earn a living, or understand the concept of money (let alone money management). He is 51 years old, non-communicative and developmentally disconnected from adapting social skills or assuming personal responsibility for his actions.

Developmental disability is any disability that is due to problems with growth and development. Developmental disabilities are usually classified as severe, profound, moderate or mild, as assessed by the individual's need for supports, which may be life-long.

Generally, persons in the mild category may be able to live independently and participate in lifelong employment. Special vocational (sheltered workshops) and community socialization training are often required to attain such mastery.

In the mid-1980's, I served as a Board of Trustee for the McLean County Association of Retarded Citizens (MARC). I fought for the rights of many citizens misplaced in developmental centers to be able to live in community settings. I believe now, as I did then, that these citizens would be capable of thinking for themselves, speaking their own mind, contributing to their own well-being, and performing as useful and productive citizens within their communities. Residential home placement was meant for these citizens. It is my understanding that nearly all of them from Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC) have been placed in community settings.

Moderate category persons will, most often, need varying levels of support from their families or from community agencies.

The plan currently under consideration may help citizens in this category, because it will enable them to move away from residents in worse condition, and will offer a variety of options and agencies to support their specific needs.

The profound and severe category persons are more likely to have very high levels of dependence with many requiring intensive supports as their mastery of activities of daily living (ADLs) is generally quite limited or non-existent.

Other than announcing that everyone will have a place to live, the plan does not address the numerous and serious needs of these residents. Again, I will use my brother as an example. Each year, during an annual review to discuss the nature of care of my brother, a portion of the meeting is devoted to developing goals for him. Here is what the case management team hopes to help Billy accomplish in 2012: "Billy will learn to place his sippy cup on a cafeteria tray when he is done eating." Does this sound a person capable of living independently?

Significant medical complications, such as epileptic seizures, swallowing difficulties, speech impairments, ambulation limitations, and a reduced life expectancy are more likely for persons in the profound impairment category.

Members of my family have toured and talked with members of community based living communities. Not one agency is prepared to provide 24/7 on-site nursing professionals at each facility to address medical complications. While care is overseen by licensed professionals, the actual caregivers are not professionals. In one facility, I learned that the person who was trained by the agency to administer medications had previously worked at a Farm and Home Supply Store and took this job to make money while she attends a school for cosmetology. At another agency, the employee had formerly been a skilled laborer who got laid off. These are not comforting thoughts.

While we are on the subject of health and safety, my family has specific concerns about the layout of these facilities. All but one we have seen has an open floor plan, with the kitchens open for access. Our brother's food has to be pureed, as he has lost his teeth over time. There is nothing stopping him from opening the fridge, grabbing a piece of cheese, and choking to death.

In addition, as he has no ability to comprehend how to avoid danger, it is feasible to imagine him walking through the kitchen, running his hand along the counter to brace him as he moves, and placing his hand directly on a hot stove burner. Also, one of Billy's simple pleasures is holding shiny objects up to his eyes to catch reflections. What if that shiny object is a knife he pulls from a drawer?

Our family has to take into account that many of the facilities do not have an alarm system on the doors, and Billy has wandered in the past. Imagine the situation where one technician is helping someone use the toilet, and another is busy loading the dishwasher. Who has their eye on Billy? Right now, you may be thinking that's an easy fix...just install an alarm. But it is not an easy fix because I was informed that alarming doors is considered a violation of the rights of the residents for whom the facility was intended.

In fact, prior to inquiring about the needs of our brother, every agency was quick to brag about the freedom the residents enjoy; how they decide what type of outings they want to go on; how they sit down and decide as a group what they want on the menus. Billy will never be capable of making decisions like this. Many of the resident bedrooms were adorned with personal affects, such as pictures, bottles of perfume, radios, and such. How will they feel when Billy, who has no regard for personal possessions, picks up their personal items and drops them? Imagine how they might react towards Billy when he breaks their things.

In regards to the numerous stories about clients being evicted because of challenging behavior:

Experience and research suggests that what professionals call "challenging behavior" is often a reaction to the challenging environments that those providing services create around people with developmental disabilities. "Challenging behavior" in this context is a method of communicating dissatisfaction with the failure of those providing services to focus on what kind of life makes most sense to the person, and is often the only recourse a developmentally disabled person has against unsatisfactory services or treatment and the lack of opportunities made available to the person. This is especially the case where the services deliver lifestyles and ways of working that are centered on what suits the service provider and its staff, rather than what best suits the person.

One of the most annoying things I have heard is how wonderful my brother is! Because he is silent, small in stature, and passive in behavior, the agency employees tell me he'd be a perfect addition to their family. They view him as low maintenance, which to me translates as someone less difficult to have to tend to, which also translates as someone who can be ignored...or abused.

WHY JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS?

Assuming I have convinced you that we need a developmental center, I now must convince you that Jacksonville is the proper place.

The community economy is centered on agencies and organizations that serve in a healthcare capacity. The opportunity to receive care from professionals is abundant, and the community has embraced residents with special needs ranging from developmental disabilities, blind and physically handicapped, and deaf.

The infrastructure enables easy access from major interstates, allowing for ready transport to major medical facilities in Springfield and St. Louis. It also is in an area of the State where families from Central and Southern Illinois can visit relatives without distance separating them.

Employment opportunities are open to rural communities surrounding JDC that are as far reaching as 50 miles. I have heard the economic impact of closing JDC is as much as \$50 million.

While there has been chronic conversation about the condition of the buildings on campus, the families and residents are comfortable with these surroundings. If the Governor is willing to pay an agency \$40k to take a resident out of the facility, then he should be willing to drop half that amount into improving the facility. There...I just saved him some money!



Most important to so many of the people is the fact that they are happy here. The citizens of Jacksonville have embraced them as their own.

Please don't separate Billy from his family.

Lorna Dempster, Guardian
4452 State Line Road
Kansas City, KS 66103
309-826-4028
hear.andnow@yahoo.com

In addition, there is currently no effectively functioning crisis intervention/support service for adults who have a developmental disability. There should be such a system, but there is not. To move the severely developmentally disabled into the community with no effective crisis intervention system or access to emergency placement in a state facility is simply inexcusable. This situation needs to be addressed. Those with a developmental disability who are living in the community need some access to emergency placement services in an inpatient or institutional setting.

Thank you for your time and for your public service.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Michael Rein
Executive Director

February 14, 2012

Commission on Gov. Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Building
Springfield IL. 62706

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in regards to the Jacksonville Developmental Center. I have a friend who has a brother there. His name is Bill and has been a resident there for 35 years. His father still visits him at the center. When he talks about his son, his eyes light up with love. Bill has always been taken well care of and the staff has always been concerned with his needs. Closing the center would be devastating to him as well as his father who is up in years. I'm concerned that Bill will become ill when he is moved to another facility as he is unable to speak his needs or wants. He will be helpless when given to someone who does not realize his requests. A non licensed facility is not the answer for those who have no voice.

To quote Abraham Lincoln, "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." You have the power to make things happen, please do the honorable thing and keep this facility open.

Sincerely,



Martha Burns
740 So. 15th St.
Quincy, IL 62301

Dear Members of the Committee,

Unlike my brother, I can express to you how important what keeping JDC open means to him. If he could speak, these would be his words:

JDC has been my home for nearly 35 years and I can tell you I am happy here.

I was the youngest of 6 children so it was always a challenge for my parents. At the age of 17 my parents painfully had to make the decision to place me here. You see, I became too hard for my mother to handle. Not knowing what I was doing I had cracked her ribs.

The love and care I have received here has lifted the burden of guilt from her heart. Bi-weekly visits from them I know they were pleased I was happy and didn't need to worry about my care.

I am very safe here. My surroundings keep me safe from myself. You see I exhibit PICA behavior. If not watched constantly I will put things in my mouth and eat it not knowing it will harm me. This is particularly dangerous as I have no teeth. I haven't a sense of danger either. I could easily cut myself with a knife; you see I love putting shiny objects up close to my eyes to look at the reflections. Many group homes my sisters visited noticed red flags of things that could harm me. Residents there are different than me and don't need as many restrictions for their safety.

I am not capable of my own personal hygiene. I do not have the sense to know when to go to the bathroom. I can somewhat feed myself when it is placed in front of me but must be watched. I choke easily because I will shove too much in my mouth at a time.

Because I cannot talk, it took my new family at JDC a while to understand the signs or grunts I may make to know if I had any needs. You could say they now know me real well. It takes special people to understand me.

Like you, I have my own personalities, and change is not something I cope well with. I become disoriented and my behavior changes. Confusion and aggravation overcomes me because I don't understand. I just know it is not my normal way of life, and that what made me happy is not there anymore.

I plead with you on behalf of my brother, and his safety, to keep JDC open. If I truly believed there was another place as safe and caring as JDC I would have already placed him there. It saddens me to here of other members families that had to move their loved one here from other states because of the lack of accountability that particular state showed when they shut down all their developmental centers.

Please don't let this State be another one that abandons the needs of these disabled citizens.

Thank you for listening.

I will pray you make the humane decision to keep JDC open.

Respectfully,

Jill Winkeljohn

3/1/12

To Whom It may Concern,

As a voter and as a person with a disability I have contacted via email the 11 members of the (COGFA) to express that the Jacksonville Developmental Center should be closed. Because I cannot overstate the importance of individuals showing the Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability (COGFA) that I care about making Illinois institution free. Fourteen other states are institution free, and Illinois should be too.

Closing the Jacksonville Developmental Center is such an important struggle to move Illinois into the future of long term care. Much has been accomplished since the days of the old Dixon State School and Bobby Kennedy saying that state institutions were not fit for human beings. Yet we still face the challenges of a system that costs so much that it excludes thousands of people with developmental disabilities from any hope of getting the community supports that they need. In addition to such places being playgrounds for institutional abuse and neglect, we have to ask whether our system is fair for everyone. You must also ask yourself, "would I ever live in such a place?" Imagine living in a college dorm for the rest of your life with people telling you everything that you can or cannot do. Is that what you'd want? Help us fight to empower people with developmental disabilities with community choices that matter to them and their families.

So in closing tell me this, "Would I ever live in such a place?" I bet I know the answer and you don't have to tell me. Think about this as you close your eyes and fall asleep this evening and the evenings to come.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Szuda

Brian M. Szuda, Associate Director

IVCIL

18 Gunia Drive

La Salle, IL 61301

Testimony to Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
March 2, 2012

By: William L. Gorman, Executive Director
Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois

My name is William Gorman and I am the Executive Director of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois. Per federal law, the SILC of Illinois has responsibility for developing a state plan for independent living services across Illinois . SILC of Illinois supports the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center .

We believe that the debate regarding institutions vs. community services should be over. Numerous studies verify that individuals with disabilities are safer, healthier, acquire skills at a greater rate, and have a higher quality of life in the community. The institutional model is outdated. I have seen closures of institutions in Indiana and Colorado and as long as the money follows the individuals into the community, Illinois can successfully close the Jacksonville Developmental Center . I am please the Governor's proposed budget includes funding for the transition of individuals from the State Operated Developmental Centers to the community. Fourteen (14) states have closed all of their state institutions yet we still have eight (8) developmental centers. It is time for us to face reality and move forward. The Department of Human Services' state plan calls for the downsizing and closure of some state institutions. This closure is in line with the state plan.

We are cognizant and sensitive to the concern over job loss; however, jobs lost at the Developmental Center will be created in the community to serve individuals transitioning from JDC to community services. Regardless, the preservation of state jobs cannot trump the right of individuals with disabilities to live in the community. We cannot use individuals with disabilities as economic commodities to maintain state employment.

In addition to the programmatic benefits of serving individuals in the community, we must address fiscal considerations. We cannot justify maintaining an old and deteriorating infrastructure at the JDC and overall, community services are more cost effective. We can quibble whether community services are two or three times more cost effective but it cannot be denied that they are less expensive.

In short, individuals with disabilities, like all citizens, want and need to live in the community. The SILC of Illinois encourages COGFA to recommend the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center .

Thank you.

William L. Gorman, Executive Director
Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois
510 East Monroe Street - 3rd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1318

Hello there, I am Patty Bass legal gurdian of Bill Stephens. I am his sister. My brother has been at JDC since August 2004. I know this is a great facility with caring staff. I have seen what can and will happen in group homes and it's not a pretty site. Everytime and I mean everytime my brother has been placed in group homes they don't know how to what to deal with the people so they drug them up so bad that they sit around like zombies. they have no quality of life. I have tried to call and talk to him when he lived at a group home and he is so out of it that I bet he doesn't even know I called him and all of his words were slurded and incoherant. I don't know who calls this quality of life but I don't. Being in this state I know he can't be active in the community. Within a few month's of living at JDC they had to send him to Chicago twice to dry out of all the medication that the group home had him on. At JDC there goal is to have them on the least amount of medication they can be on but still get what they need. Now to me that is a active person in the community. I know he enjoy's the activities they have at JDC, the dance's and walks to the store and movie nights. He also goes to church every Sunday and participates in activities at the church. He goes to work everyday and earns a paycheck for that. To me every activity he participates in is quality of life. At JDC they do a yearly evaluation to see what kind of learning skills they can put him on and what he has progressed on in the last year. My brother is diabetic. At JDC he is on a strict diet and is monitored regulary for his blood sugar because there 's a doctor and nurse there to see to his needs all the time. I question the fact this is going to happen in group homes or are they going to be educated on this. Are they even going to know the signs of a diabetic problem. If this is not diagnosed properly this could end in DEATH. Please tell me who will be held reasonable for this. My opion is that JDC is the best place for my brother. He has done so much better there. Thank you for letting tell you my story about my brother that I love and care about very much.

Patty Bass

Hello,

I am a voter in Madison County. I am not affiliated with a resident of JDC. I have been following the Governor's proposal to close the state facilities since the announcement in the late summer of 2011. I cannot understand why Governor Quinn would choose to put mentally disturbed residents that are thriving at the JDC into other community facilities. I truly hope that Governor Quinn takes a good look at other ways of lowering the budget. Pushing approximately 200 residents out of their home into an unstable environment puts others at risk. Please keep the facility open.

Thank you,

Linda Hunsinger
New Douglas IL

Dear Mr.GOV. Quinn,

PLEASE reconsider closing JDC in Jacksonville, IL.

Those residents NEED their home and the care they receive, some of them have nothing else in life. Not to mention the employees who will be worse off without JDC to go to each day.

I say if you want to save money, find and stop all of the fraud within the systems of Medicaid, CHASSI, and Snap. That could save millions. I see undeserving/ cheating people everyday! While I work and scrape to feed my kids. And now My daughter may loose her job at JDC. Even as bad as all that is, the people who live at JDC will be worse off if you shut them down. PLease Govenor Quinn, leave those people in peace!

Thank YOu,

Michelle Potter
141 Jessica Drive
St. Jacob, IL. 62281

Jacksonville Developmental Center is home for 200 individuals with developmental disabilities who receive excellent care from dedicated professional staff. JDC residents should not be forced from their home! Urge lawmakers to support a supplemental appropriation needed to Save JDC!

Matthew Bertram

Preeteka Dhamrait
2008 Hidden Mill
Springfield, Illinois 62711

Honorable Members of the Illinois State Legislature,

I implore the decision makers concerning the closing of Jacksonville Developmental Center or ANY of the Developmental Centers in Illinois keep in mind that many of the residents at these centers are severely mentally disabled with little to no cognitive abilities combined with speech, vision and other developmental complications. They are human beings with individual and varying needs.

Many of the residents including my brother(Jagdeep) have lived in JDC /Lincoln Developmental Center for most of their lives and consider those centers HOME. These centers provide around-the-clock safety, personnel, and medical care that they would not get elsewhere. "One-size-fits-all" Group Homes in the community are NOT the answer and would pose personal, physical, emotional and developmental trauma to my brother . To uproot my brother as well as other residents from their home is cruel, deplorable and heartless. I do hope some rethinking will be done on this matter and in turn ensure that individuals who are severely mentally disabled can keep there home at developmental centers where they can obtain the individual and humane care they require.

My brother has profound retardation who can not speak let alone feed himself. He already had to deal with a transition when they closed Lincoln Developmental center 10 years ago. JDC has a wonderful staff that can take care of my brothers needs. He was 17 years old when he placed at SODC and now he is 50 years. He use to be physically aggressive and would hit himself but not anymore thanks to SODC. The SODC are better equipped to deal with him. He is no longer aggressive and he is well adjusted to his home. However if he was to be forced to a group home or other SODC this will traumatize him. He is a creature of habit like the rest of us. Last year when he had a bout of pneumonia the doctors and nurses took immediate action, they are better equipped to deal with my brothers tendency to aspirate food into his lungs, a condition that cause pneumonia and other infections. Also my family and I live near JDC so we are able to visit Jagdeep regularly there and bring him home on the weekends. If he is forced to be moved to Chicago or down state(which the Governor also wants to close) it would be much harder if not impossible to bring him home for visits. My father is 80 years old my mother is 75 years old their health is declining and the drive would be difficult.

Please reconsider the Governors decision this is my brothers home. Please keep JDC open otherwise where will my brother go??????

Sincerely,

Preeteka Dhamrait Rph

Sister of a resident of JDC

The Arc and other advocates have been calling for the rebalancing of the disability system for many years. We are committed to working with families at the Jacksonville Developmental Center and other state institutions to ensure a safe and meaningful transition into community living. There is no question that this is a frightening and emotional time for families. We want those living in JDC and their families to know that they are not alone. The Arc is committed to being their partner and offering resources to make this transition comfortable and productive. We have helped people with the most severe disabilities successfully transition into a community setting, and they are eager to share their experiences and offer support. Yes, a safe transition for individuals who require 24-hour care has already been done in Illinois, and The Arc and its partners are committed to helping more people with disabilities live life in their communities with independence, equality and opportunity.

Members of the Commission should vote to support the closing of JDC now that the administration has developed a comprehensive and progressive plan for closing JDC.

Tony Paulauski
Executive Director
The Arc of Illinois

JDC is so much more than just a building, it's a home. Please don't close it!

Jeff Daggett

Please keep Jacksonville Developmental Center open. Many of its residents are too severe to live in community homes. Where will they live??

They need the care & support of Jacksonville Developmental Center.

Thank you -

Janis Plattner

March 6, 2012

To the COGFA members:

Please do not close Jacksonville Developmental Center. The people who could benefit from the closure portray JDC as a bad place. It is quite the opposite. JDC is a training center that has helped many people move to a community setting. Most of the people who live at JDC are not ready for community placement. Those that have been ready for placement, a home could not be found. It is strange how so many homes became available after the "closing" was announced. I wonder why they could not serve the people in the past and suddenly now they can serve them?

Most of the guardians have dealt with many failures in community placement and they do not want their loved one to go through this again. At this point there are not enough supports in the community to ease their mind. In the past, when a person left JDC and they had difficulties that could not be resolved from the help of JDC staff and staff in Springfield, they had the opportunity to return to JDC. If JDC closes there would be no safety net. What will happen to their loved one if they are not successful in the community setting?

JDC continues to serve its purpose of preparing people for community placement. Why would anyone think that suddenly, everyone is ready for community placement? There are doctors, nurses, trained direct care staff, a psychiatrist, as well as many other staff on duty 24 hours a day or as needed. Most of the staff remain at JDC for an extended time, not just six months then on to another job. This is something that community placement cannot provide, and this is needed with the people that reside at JDC. They could not provide the services that are provided to the people who live at JDC, as they are provided now. Just to mention one, the medical care is superb plus and the follow up is unbelievable.

Central Illinois needs a Center to serve the Developmentally Disabled population. If the age of the buildings or power plant is the reason that the Governor wants JDC closed, there are other options. JDC could obtain local power and no longer rely on the power plant. Last year, there was a large sum of money put into the buildings, sidewalks, ramps and the list goes on. Another idea is that ISD and ISVI could consolidate and JDC would move to their vacant building.

Please keep JDC open so the employees can continue to do the job they were trained to do. They have compassion and deeply care about the people they serve. The people who live there are like family. They care and as you can see, they will fight for the rights of the people they serve.

Thank you,

Linda DeJaynes

Good morning. My name is Sean Zears and I am the Community Relations Manager for Mosaic of Pontiac. We serve individuals with developmental disabilities. One of our clients is Kevin "Joe" Bishop. He has lived with us for almost 5 years. I would like to submit a statement he gave me yesterday in regards to living outside in the community.

"I get to go more places, and I also have more freedom. They also allow me to have a job coach, which allows me to have a job."

He also says "I like to work and I like to do my own dishes and laundry and watch my own TV"

This is what Kevin says about what he would tell people who want to live outside in the community. "People are nice, you get to go shopping, go on rides, and get to go out to eat. I am happier in a group home/apartment then living in Jacksonville."

Joe is featured in our virtual mission tour called "Discover the Possibilities" here at Mosaic. Since his move from Jacksonville, he has become more independent and is a pleasure to be around.

I wanted to submit his statement, since he may not be able to present later tonight at the hearing. He wanted to make sure each of you were aware of how happy Joe is at Mosaic and in a community setting.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you so much.

--

Sean Zears
Community Relations Manager
Mosaic
725 W. Madison Street
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-842-4166 ext. 102
Sean.Zears@mosaicinfo.org
Web Address (www.mosaicinpontiac.org)
Facebook www.facebook.com/pages/Mosaic-of-Pontiac/176907425738971

I'm urging you to vote on closing Jacksonville Developmental Center. It saves the state money by moving people with developmental disabilities out of State Operated Developmental Center (SODC) into Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) Group Homes. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are on the PUNS waiting list. The PUNS waiting list is too long. It has about \$22,000 people on the PUNS waiting list. Services Now! It cost less money for people with severe developmental disabilities and intellectual disabilities to live in the community. 14 states has closed state-run institutions.

Curtis Harris
Access Living Staff Associate
Health Care Policy

Hi,

My name is Gary. I live in Chicago. I work with and am a part of the disability community in Illinois. I am writing in support of the closure of Jacksonville and all state operated developmental facilities in Illinois.

Illinois needs to transition to a more community-based system of supports for people with disabilities. This is better for the independence, and productivity of people with disabilities. This will increase the strength and diversity of communities across the state and it will set up a new system of support that is less costly and of higher quality than institutions.

Thank you,

Gary Arnold
Chicago, IL 60605

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to express my support for the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center. Its expense precludes other people with developmental disabilities from obtaining services. in addition, it prevents Illinois from realizing its vision for the Olmstead mandate. People with disabilities have a human right to live in the community. No one should be institutionalized because they have a disability.

Laura Pond

My brother has cerebral palsy, developmental delays, cognitive disabilities, gross and fine motor disabilities and growth disabilities. This is not all my brother is. His is the youngest of three siblings, each with their own disability issues. He is the son of two parents with disabilities, one with audio disabilities and the other with clinical depression.

He has worked at Target for over ten years finding "things out of place", like trash, misplaced items and remnants of stolen goods left behind. He has kayaked in Utah and lived independently since his high school graduation. He plays wheelchair basketball and, while living in Chicago, roots for the Packers.

My brother also has the IQ score equivalent to a 4 year old and is dependent on hiring, training and firing his own personal attendants who come to his home to ensure he continues being more than just his disability.

My brother was at risk of falling into the same traps residents at Jacksonville fell into and at every pitfall, he and those who love him, advocated for independent living. He advocated for de-segregation. He advocated for equality. He advocated for justice. He advocated for himself. He advocated for everyone.

By closing Jacksonville, you provide the same opportunity for residents there to pursue their own dreams. You provide them with the burden of what can be instead of relieving them of what society says cannot be. You open up doors to the community and shut down barriers to freedom.

You honor my brother and others like him by respecting their Constitutional right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Scott Nance - Chicago, Illinois

It depends on those who pass, whether I am a tomb or a treasure, whether I speak or I am silent. -
Inscription over Paris museum

My name is Nellie Enoch and Terri Lee Statler is my daughter and a resident of Jacksonville developmental center. Help us keep it open please.

I believe that JDC needs to stay open because there is nowhere else some people like my daughter Terri Statler can go and receive around the clock care and remain in an environment where she is happy and contented. Terri was tried in a community setting and was very unhappy, threw bricks through windows and got kicked out. Terri cannot manage on her own in the kind of situation the Gov. is wanting for her and the others at JDC. I truly believe if the Gov. can give raises to himself and others in our states gov. he can and should find a way to keep JDC open.

I meant Governor. This really makes no sense to me. People who cannot speak for themselves are just kicked out and expected to enjoy it. Like they have no freedoms and are expected to do what they are told by the Governor. I wonder if Governor Quinn and our politicians could look God in the eye and say they were unnecessary rubbish and so we tossed them in the cutters for the police and others to look after. Those PEOPLE in JDC are there for care, protection and health reasons. They are people and should be treated as so. Just because they cannot vote does not mean they are not your responsibility as well as the parents. At least the parents did not toss them out like trash.

Sincerely,
Nellie Enoch
Mount Sterling, IL

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dawn Alexander and I am one of three legal guardians and sister of Terri Statler a resident at Jacksonville Developmental Center.

Terri came to JDC from LDC and has resided at JDC for the past ten years. She considers JDC to be her home now. She is actively involved in the work programs offered there and is able to make and spend her own money. Terri needs constant supervision which is provided by the JDC staff. The staff and other residents at JDC are her extended family. They're there for her when her biological family can't be. I don't understand why anyone would want to take that from her or any of the other 183 individuals who reside at JDC. She has been placed in the "community" before and the "community" failed her. They not only failed her but kicked her out! When she was in "community" placement Terri threw a brick through the window of a home that had a home based daycare. You see Terri is obsessive compulsive and likes to break windows. Therefore you must understand my hesitation at "community" placement for her. How many windows of the home she will be placed in or of a neighboring home will she be allowed to break before she is kicked out again?

As for the transition aspect of this plan, I feel it's being very rushed. Transition is hard on what we would consider a normal person I can only imagine what transition is like on someone with profound mental disabilities. Can you imagine being told by someone who doesn't even know you or has never even met you that they're closing your home? My sister doesn't understand what is going on. Some of these individuals my sister included thrive in situations where there is a great deal of structure, the kind of structure that they get at JDC.

My sister is happy at JDC and myself and her other two guardians are happy with the care and structure that she gets at JDC. JDC is centrally located to all three of her siblings and therefore we are able to come and see her and take her out on a regular basis. Please keep JDC my sister's home open.

Sincerely,

Dawn Alexander

Sister and guardian

Statement to
The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
Closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center
Wednesday, March 7, 2012
By Barbara M. Pritchard
Member of the Community for All Coalition

- Hello, I am the Co-Founder of the Community for All Coalition with my late husband Lester. My name is Barbara Pritchard.
- In closing Jacksonville Developmental Center the most important issue to consider today is the residents and their transition to their new living situation.
- People should be free to move to the community of their choice with services and supports designed specifically for each individual.
- I believe the Governor's Rebalancing Active Community Care Transition plan does put the resident's choices and needs at the forefront by using a person-centered planning approach and developing community capacity.
- I understand many consumers and families fear failure in moving to the community because the community may have failed them many times in the past.

- To reduce this fear, two groups have made themselves available through the ACCT Plan to work as mentors with family members and/or residents in the transition process.
- Many of the mentors have gone through similar transitions and can help answer questions and ease concerns about moving out of JDC.
- The consultants over seeing the ACCT plan have successfully transitioned residents from institutions to the community in other parts of the US and have the expertise to enable residents to get the individualized supports they need and deserve.
- I request COGFA members to vote for closure of JDC and support the Governor's Rebalancing Initiative.
- We are at a pivotal point in Illinois and closing JDC will be the first step in ensuring that residents can lead safe lives filled with choice, liberty, and happiness.

Dear Madam or Sir,

I am writing to you about the Jacksonville Developmental Centre, which Illinois Governor Pat Quinn is pushing to close (along with 13 other state-operated facilities) due to budget cuts. JDC is home to and serves as a safety net for 200 men and women with developmental disabilities. These individuals have significant behavioral, medical, and personal care needs that cannot currently be met by community providers. Not only that, but the JDC goes above and beyond the normal standard of care. In seeing the work that is done at the JDC to ensure that the residents are happy and socialised, I was honestly amazed. My mother was a nurse, so I spent a lot of time visiting people in care facilities as I grew up. Many of these facilities are horribly understaffed because caring is not just maintenance of a body, it involves a reciprocal relationship between carer and resident. If you, or any of your family members have ever had an extended stay in hospital then perhaps you understand the importance of having carers who are invested in the emotional wellbeing of the patient or resident. JDC is a facility that should be lauded for it's achievements in putting the residents first, in creating happy and safe environments for them.

I appreciate that budget cuts must be made, and that the JDC is in need up upgrades. But I implore you to consider alternatives to closing it down. Perhaps it could be given the necessary repairs over a period of time? Perhaps it could be moved to a new location? Perhaps it could be merged with another, relevant facility. Please don't turn your backs on the residents, workers, and the community who get so much value from the JDC.

Yours sincerely,
Melissa Adams.

I am very disappointed to read that they have already announced the time-line of the layoffs that will take place at JDC. Gov. Quinn has no clue to the needs of these residents. If he or the commission had stretched this out for 2 years, it might have given these residents a smoother transition.

For my Brother, I fear a great behavior change.

He has been at JDC for 35 years. He can't speak, is not capable of expressing himself except with his behavior. He is also completely incapable of his own personal hygiene.

Imagine an baby crying all the time. Is it hungry? Has wet pants? Has pain in some way? Feels sick? You don't know what to do to help.

Now imagine a 51 year old in the same situation. You can't have a conversation with him because he can't speak.

The amount of care the staff has provided for him at Jacksonville will never be replaceable at these group homes because of the level of education and experience these employees poses.

Several of the group homes I had visited informed me it takes about 12 months to successfully transition a new person. And now it has to happen in a matter of 4-7 months.

Please!!!! Relay this back to the Commission to stretch this out. If you are making us do this, at least have the compassion to help us make it easier on our loved ones.

Thank-you for listening
Jill Winkeljohn

I am writing in regard to the closure of the Jacksonville Center for the Disabled. I am appalled at the way this has been handled. Those people have rights and we need to help them not take them away from the home that has brought them comfort. If any of the decision makers had a family member in this facility they would understand how traumatic it had been for the residents and all of the family members. My friends bother has been there most of his life and has the mentality of an 18 month old child...would you take a home away from a child?

I fully support all of the efforts to stop this insane idea and support all those involved in this facility. Wake up Governor! Shame on you! You have a public relations nightmare by picking on those who cannot help themselves.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jane Swaney
3 Lakeview Point
Bloomington, IL 61701

I am writing to request that the decision to close JDC be reversed. The brother of a close family friend is a resident at JDC. This center has been a positive experience for this man and closure to the facility would be devastating. It does not appear that a clear plan is in place to adequately help the residents and their families if the site were to close. Please reconsider the decision to close JDC.

Sincerely,
Beth Steiner

I thought it was critical for me to notify you that, despite Kevin Casey's assurances to guardians (on March 2, 2012) that guardians' input would be part of the process, my sister's assessment was scheduled for today, May 8, 2012 at 9 a.m. I received no prior notification of the meeting. The meeting came to my attention late on Monday, May 7. I live in Ohio so it is critical that I receive advance notification so that I can arrange travel for me to attend meetings concerning my sister.

Upon learning that the meeting was to take place, I contacted Rod from CRA. To his credit, he answered my call immediately and promptly rescheduled the assessment so that I could attend. The new date is May 29, 2012.

As you might imagine, I am troubled by the breakdown in the process that I was promised, by Kevin Casey, Mike Doyle, the CRA folks themselves (CEO, Derrick Dufresne) would be a thoughtful, inclusive one. While my situation was resolved, I'm assuming that you want to know that there has been a breakdown in the process.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss the matter further.

Thank you and best regards,

Deborah Stype



Pat Quinn, Governor

Illinois Department of Human Services

Michelle R.B. Saddler, Secretary

401 N. 4th Street, 2nd Floor • Springfield, IL 62702

January 30, 2012

Ms. Paula Painter
Office of the Auditor General
Iles Park Plaza
740 East Ash
Springfield, Illinois 62703

RE: JDC Medical Staff Emergency – Harborside Rehabilitation Limited Partnership dba Ready Nurse Staffing Services – PBC 66649

Dear Ms. Painter:

Attached is an Emergency Purchase Affidavit for Actual Costs of \$484,600.00. This emergency is needed to hire medical staff at the Jacksonville Developmental Center due to the recent loss of several staff. JDC has lost a lot of medical staff recently and has been unable to hire new employees to date. The Facility has contacted several vendors and Harborside Rehabilitation Limited Partnership d.b.a. Ready Nurse Staffing Services is the only vendor able to fulfill the needs of JDC. Moving forward immediately is imperative to ensure proper care for JDC residents.

DHS declared an emergency under the provisions of Title 44 Illinois Administrative Code, Procurement Rules, Section 1.2030 an emergency necessary to prevent or minimize serious disruption in critical State services that affect health, safety or collection of substantial revenues.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact my office at 217-558-1596.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Crutcher
State Purchasing Officer, DHS

cc: Jeff Runyon/Michael Underwood, JDC
Trudy Haffer, Acting Agency Procurement Officer, DHS

EMERGENCY PURCHASE AFFIDAVIT

Reference # _____

Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) making a procurement under Illinois Procurement Code (30 ILCS 500/20-30) shall file affidavit with Procurement Policy Board and Auditor General within 10 days.

Agency: Chief Procurement Office Division: Department of Human Services State Purchasing Officer
Address: 401 N 4th Street, Centrum Building, Second Floor

City: Springfield State: Illinois Zip: 62702

Vendor: Harborside Rehabilitation Limited Partnership dba Ready Nurse Staffing Services

Address: 101 Sun Avenue NE

City: Albuquerque State: NM Zip: 87109

State of Illinois)
County of Sangamon) SS

I, Kenneth Crutcher, being duly sworn, solemnly swear and affirm that I am the State Purchasing Officer, Chief Procurement Office for The Department of Human Services.

I have authorized the emergency procurement in accordance with standards as established by law and rule in fulfillment of the emergency purchase affidavit provisions of Illinois Procurement Code [30 ILCS 500/20-30] as follows.

- X Involving threat to public health or public safety. Immediate expenditure is necessary for repairs to State property to protect against further loss of or damage
X To prevent or minimize serious disruption in critical State services that affect health, safety, or collection of substantial State revenues. To insure integrity of State records Quick purchase as provided by Section 20-30 (d) of the Illinois Procurement Code

The conditions and circumstances requiring this emergency purchase, including reason for selection of the particular contractor are: JDC is in need of medical staff to assist in the care of its residents. JDC has lost a lot of medical staff recently. JDC has not been able to hire new employees to date yet. We have contacted several vendors and this vendor is the only vendor able to fulfill the needs of our facility. Therefore, we are needing to execute an emergency in order to be able to properly provide for our residents.

(Continue on next page if necessary)

Expected Start Date: 01/30/2012 Expected End Date: 04/28/2012

Extension of previous emergency purchase: [] Yes or [X] No

Term of emergency procurement shall not exceed 90 days. Contract may be extended beyond 90 days if CPO determines additional time is necessary; however, prior to execution of extension, CPO must hold a public hearing and provide written description.

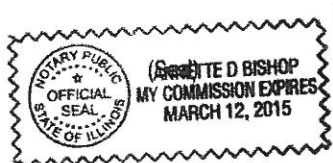
Amount of this expenditure is: \$ 484,600.00 [X] Actual or \$ _____ [] *Estimated

*When only an estimate of cost is available, the actual cost shall be reported immediately after it is determined.

I am duly authorized to make this affidavit. I know and understand the contents of this affidavit and all statements herein are true and correct. This affidavit is made pursuant to and in fulfillment of the requirements of Illinois Procurement Code [30 ILCS 500/20-30].

Signature of Affiant (Handwritten Signature)

Subscribed and sworn before me this 30th day of January 2012 (Handwritten Signature) Notary Public



My Commission expires: 3-12-15