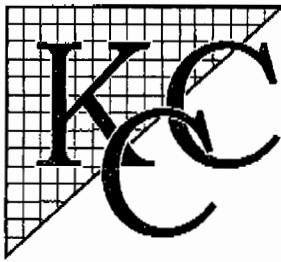


FAX TO: 217-785-4111



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October 9, 2012

OCT 11 2012

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members:

As a business leader and member of the Jacksonville community, I would ask you to please consider postponing the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC). This facility is a mainstay of this area and exemplary in the model care that it provides to the residents.

We ask that you would consider the following key points about JDC:

- Maintains a solid certification record
- Remains in good standing with the federal government
- Had \$2 million in Life Safety Code construction recently
- Has a Health Care Center with a setup similar to a doctor's office which trains residents to go to a doctor's appointment in preparation for life in our community
- Provides a Short Term Assistance Program which works with statewide crisis teams and admits people who have psychological or behavioral needs
- Coordinates work programs within the facility and partners with two agencies in the Jacksonville community, once again in preparation for life outside of JDC

We would like to propose the use of JDC as a centrally located facility that can care for individuals that have not been able to transition to community settings. As the developmental centers close throughout the state, JDC can ensure the continued physical and emotional care in a proven quality program.

JDC would also be an excellent facility for evaluation of the developmentally disturbed with the experience we have in assessing their needs. The Short Term Assistance Program would be valuable component to the state's new community placement.

Thank you for considering our request, and we ask that you analyze the outstanding programs that our center provides. Please vote against the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.

Sincerely,

Eugene H. Hild, President
MEMBER; Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce
N. Green Chamber of Commerce



P. O. Box 152 • Jacksonville, Illinois 62651 • 217-245-6884 • FAX: 217-479-4002
Email: info@jacksonvillemainstreet.com • Website: www.jacksonvillemainstreet.com

October 9, 2012

To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members:

As a preservation-based non-profit organization striving to assist small businesses and revitalize downtown economically, Jacksonville Main Street respectfully requests you to please consider postponing the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC). This facility is an anchor to the Jacksonville community and provides a model in the care provided to its residents.

Specific points of consideration in retaining JDC include these key factors:

- JDC maintains a solid certification record
- The facility remains in good standing with the federal government
- JDC had \$2 million in Life Safety Code construction recently
- It has a Health Care Center with a setup similar to a doctor's office which trains residents to go to a doctor's appointment in preparation for life in our community
- JDC provides a Short Term Assistance Program which works with statewide crisis teams and admits people who have psychological or behavioral needs
- JDC coordinates work programs within the facility and partners with two agencies in the Jacksonville community, once again in preparation for life outside of JDC

We would like to propose the use of JDC as a centrally located facility that can care for individuals that have not been able to transition to community settings. As the developmental centers close throughout the state, JDC can ensure the continued physical and emotional care in a proven quality program.

JDC would also be an excellent facility for evaluation of the developmentally disturbed with the experience we have in assessing their needs. The Short Term Assistance Program would be valuable component to the state's new community placement.

Thank you for considering our request, and we ask that you analyze the outstanding programs that our center provides. Please vote against the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.

Sincerely,

Judy Tighe, CSM
Executive Director

Oct. 9, 12

Dear Review Board,

I live in the Jacksonville area and wanted to give my support to JDC.

Although I do not work for the facility or have family that works or lives there, I believe those that do should have the most say in this matter. They do not want this place to be closed.

Personally I know how difficult it is trying to find a place for a loved one. We were unable to locate a group home that would accept my mother. Her disabilities aren't as debilitating as those who truly need JDC, but she was still denied. The services that this facility provide are essential for these people. My heart goes out to the families that are being affected by this. These residents cannot find group homes that will accept them and where they will thrive.

Also, I am disturbed to read that twice it was recommended JDC not be closed and Gov.

Quinn is still moving quickly forward. It is unfortunate the true costs of maintenance weren't represented. Politics should not be what is driving Gov. Quinn when dealing with fragile human beings that need so much care. They are being torn from their home and the families should have our support.

Thank you,
Rebekah Davidson
Lynnville, IL



October 10, 2012

To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members:

As a business leader and member of the Jacksonville community, I would ask you to please consider postponing the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC). This facility is a mainstay of this area and exemplary in the model care that it provides to the residents.

We ask that you would consider the following key points about JDC:

- Maintains a solid certification record
- Remains in good standing with the federal government
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- Has a Health Care Center with a setup similar to a doctor's office which trains residents to go to a doctor's appointment in preparation for life in our community
- Provides a Short Term Assistance Program which works with statewide crisis teams and admits people who have psychological or behavioral needs
- Coordinates work programs within the facility and partners with two agencies in the Jacksonville community, once again in preparation for life outside of JDC

We would like to propose the use of JDC as a centrally located facility that can care for individuals that have not been able to transition to community settings. As the developmental centers close throughout the state, JDC can ensure the continued physical and emotional care in a proven quality program.

JDC would also be an excellent facility for evaluation of the developmentally disturbed with the experience we have in assessing their needs. The Short Term Assistance Program would be valuable component to the state's new community placement.

Thank you for considering our request, and we ask that you analyze the outstanding programs that our center provides. Please vote against the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.

Sincerely,
Tom Schreyer

Constantino, Mike

From: Avery, Courtney
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 3:12 PM
To: Constantino, Mike; Hills, Bonnie
Subject: Fw: Objection to closure of JDC
Attachments: IHFSRB.2012.docx

From: jdorn215@yahoo.com [mailto:jdorn215@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 03:08 PM
To: Avery, Courtney
Subject: Objection to closure of JDC

Hello,

I am writing in objection of the closure of JDC. As a guardian for my brother, the community setting does not meet his needs, whereas JDC has given him the stability he needs for quality of life. Joanne D.

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to urge the IHFSRB to reject the closure permit for the Jacksonville Developmental Center and keep the facility open for the following reasons:

- 1) I am having difficulty finding an alternative residential setting for my brother who is currently a resident at JDC. The agencies I have contacted for services state they cannot serve him due to his aggressive behavior and self-injurious behavior. In other words, he is a danger to himself and others.
- 2) My brother has medical issues that require administration of medication by a medical professional and most agencies do not have an RN or LPN 24/7.
- 3) Community agencies appear to be woefully understaffed and therefore cannot meet the needs of my brother. In addition, most agencies have waiting lists and cannot now accommodate my brother.
- 4) Doctors, hospital staff and psychiatrists in the community are not specially trained to work with individuals with developmental disabilities.
- 5) JDC is centrally located for individuals with severe developmental disabilities and their families. My family and I were able to visit on a regular basis.
- 6) JDC's trained and professional staff were able to stabilize my brother's behavior after he was discharged from a group home. The doctors and psychiatrists at JDC were knowledgeable in working with individuals with developmental disabilities.
- 7) Therefore, after three unsuccessful attempts at living in the community, my brother's needs cannot be met adequately in the community setting and I recommend keeping JDC open.

Sincerely,

Joanne D.

Constantino, Mike

From: Avery, Courtney
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 4:26 PM
To: Constantino, Mike; Hills, Bonnie
Subject: Fw: Closing SODC.S

From: Jyneane A. Stellhorn [mailto:jas@herzogcrebs.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 04:24 PM
To: Avery, Courtney
Cc: gooby@htc.net <gooby@htc.net>; peggy10381@hotmail.com <peggy10381@hotmail.com>
Subject: Closing SODC.S

Our state seems to be able to allocate our monies for recreation and so many other unimportant things but cannot find the Funds to keep the Residents at SODC open!?! Please re-evaluate your position on this. Everyone of these residents NEED to be cared for in one way or another. None of the Residents there asked to have all the handicaps they have and in their time of need you want to SHUT THE DOORS IN THEIR FACE!?! Please put yourself or one of your family members in their shoes and I bet YOU WOULD COME UP WITH A WAY TO KEEP SODC.S OPEN!!

You are basically throwing these people out of their homes. How would you feel one day to come "home" and find out it's not there? Your friends, family, co-workers, everyone you are accustomed to seeing, just gone. How would you adjust being thrown into a strange environment? Think how these poor people with disabilities will feel. They didn't ask to be born with disabilities. Sadly, it's their way of life and they have adjusted to their way of life – probably better than most of us would if we woke up tomorrow and weren't the same person.

I have a personal interest in this. My sister-in-law's brother calls this home!!! He LOVES to go home!! Not home with us – HOME AT MURRAY!!! Please figure this out and keep these people in their HOME!!!! Thank you.

HERZOG ♦ CREBS

Jyneane A. Stellhorn
Legal Secretary
Herzog Crebs LLP
100 North Broadway, 14th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102-2728
Phone: 314.231.6700
Fax: 314.231.4656
Email: jas@herzogcrebs.com

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Constantino, Mike

12-074

From: Avery, Courtney
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 5:54 PM
To: Constantino, Mike; Hills, Bonnie
Subject: Fw: Speaking for Those Who Can't

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OCT 11 2012

Received after 5.

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

From: Hilda Jo bandera [mailto:bandera408@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 05:15 PM
To: Avery, Courtney
Subject: Speaking for Those Who Can't

TO Courtney.Avery@illinois.gov

Please add to the public comments in the decision before the Illinois Health Services and Facilities Review Board.

Illinois should not continue with the flawed closure plans of the SODCs. The daily treatment and services provided at the SODCs today is not readily available in community homes. The residents are not just developmentally disabled they have fragile medical needs as well. Daily use and treatment of trachias, feeding tubes, Hoya lifts, specialized wheel chairs and walkers. They have Rett Syndrome, Autism, diabetes, seizures and Pica to name just a few.

SODC'S are the best there is for our DD residents with severe and profound disabilities and the most cost effective way to provide medical services. The community homes do not successfully handle the medical needs of this segment of the population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jo Bandera, Oregon, IL
815-732-2914

Sent from my iPhone

Constantino, Mike

From: Avery, Courtney
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 5:55 PM
To: Constantino, Mike; Hills, Bonnie
Subject: Fw: Keeping JHC open

Received after 5.

From: Jeanne Stierwalt [mailto:jeannemstierwalt@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 05:49 PM
To: Avery, Courtney
Subject: Keeping JHC open

To Whom It May Concern,

My brother is a resident of JHC. All I can really say is he has been moved so many times and it is a very traumatic event for him. He was neglected and abused at Howe and when he arrived at JHC he was malnourished and unhappy. Within months he was making his happy noises, gaining weight and overall, a new person. Andrew Shafer is 54 and has never gotten to run in the sunshine, pet a dog, drive a car, even recognize his mother... Please, don't make him endure another move and endure such a disruption to his routine.

Thank you for your consideration In this matter.

Jeanne Stierwalt

Constantino, Mike

From: Avery, Courtney
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 6:47 PM
To: Constantino, Mike; Hills, Bonnie
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Vote NO to closing SODC'S
Attachments: unnamed_file

----- Original Message -----

From: mebgzz [mailto:mebgzz@htc.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 06:45 PM
To: Avery, Courtney
Subject: Fwd: Vote NO to closing SODC'S

Dear Ms.Avery and review board:

Please, I beg you with every common sensical bone in your body vote NO on closing Jacksonville and Murray Center.
These facilities are the last option we have as parents and guardians of profoundly disabled individuals. They CANNOT be forced into these group homes and survive.

Governor Quinn has been sold a bill of goods. He has no idea the specialized care our children need. He has listened to Director Casey, Tony Paulauski and their ilk.
The whole 'rebalancing' act smells of a conspiracy. It's past time for him to visit with us and our children. He has FAILED us big time. Mr. Casey says, 'TRUST US. WORK WITH US". It should be, 'FAITH, TRUST, and PIXIE DUST'.

I plead with you to vote as COFGA did and send Governor Quinn a message that he is making the biggest mistake of his administration. He will carry the 'stench of death' with him the rest of his life if he does not change his mind. My daughter will not survive a transition to a group home.

Thank you for your NO vote and may God be with you.

The loving mother of Stefani whose home is Murray Center,

Melba Gonzalez
PO Box 61, Red Bud, IL 62278

From: "mebgzz" <mebgzz@htc.net>
Subject: Do Not Close SODC'S
Date: Mon, 08 Oct 2012 17:07:59 -0600

Dear Ms.Avery and review board:

Please, I beg you with every common sensical bone in your body vote NO on closing Jacksonville and Murray Center.
These facilities are the last option we have as parents and guardians of profoundly disabled individuals. They CANNOT be forced into these group homes and survive.

Governor Quinn has been sold a bill of goods. He has no idea the specialized care our children need. He has listened to Director Casey, Tony Paulauski and their ilk. The whole 'rebalancing' act smells of a conspiracy. It's past time for him to visit with us and our children and he has FAILED us big time.

I plead with you to vote as COFGA did and send Governor Quinn a message that he is making the biggest mistake of his administration. He will carry the 'stench of death' with him the rest of his life if he does not change his mind. My daughter will not survive a transition to a group home.

Thank you for your NO vote and may God be with you.

The loving mother of Stefani whose home is Murray Center,

Melba Gonzalez
PO Box 61, Red Bud, IL 62278
618-282-2858

[Attachment: unnamed_file]

Constantino, Mike

From: mebgzz@htc.net on behalf of mebgzz [mebgzz@htc.net]
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2012 6:08 PM
To: courtney.aavery@illinois.gov
Subject: Do Not Close SODC'S

Dear Ms.Avery and review board:

Please, I beg you with every common sensical bone in your body vote NO on closing Jacksonville and Murray Center.

These facilities are the last option we have as parents and guardians of profoundly disabled individuals. They CANNOT be forced into these group homes and survive.

Governor Quinn has been sold a bill of goods. He has no idea the specialized care our children need. He has listened to Director Casey, Tony Paulauski and their ilk. The whole 'rebalancing' act smells of a conspiracy. It's past time for him to visit with us and our children and he has FAILED us big time.

I plead with you to vote as COFGA did and send Governor Quinn a message that he is making the biggest mistake of his administration. He will carry the 'stench of death' with him the rest of his life if he does not change his mind. My daughter will not survive a transition to a group home.

Thank you for your NO vote and may God be with you.

The loving mother of Stefani whose home is Murray Center,

Melba Gonzalez
PO Box 61, Red Bud, IL 62278
618-282-2858

Constantino, Mike

From: Avery, Courtney
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 6:15 AM
To: Constantino, Mike; Hills, Bonnie
Subject: Fw: Tony and the Arc are WRONG!

From: Rita Hicks [mailto:richelehicks@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 08:22 PM
To: Avery, Courtney
Subject: Tony and the Arc are WRONG!

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board:

I read the letter that Tony Paulauski from the ARC wrote you stating the ARC represents infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities, Tony and the ARC do not represent all people with developmental disabilities.

I represent people with developmental disabilities, I have been working on the "front line". I have a sister with a developmental disability. I am appalled that these state and national experts that Tony speaks of think they know what is best. I spend at least 40 hours a week in a home for people with developmental disabilities. I assist them in dressing, eating and completing daily tasks, I assist them by escorting them on doctors appointments, I assist them with finding alternative ways to express emotions or resisting self injurious behaviors. Tony and these so called experts, how dare they sit in offices and declare that they know what is best.

Tony discusses the thousands that have successfully moved from SODC's, but he did mention that his definition of successful is propaganda and full of misinformation. Many people are not successful, many return to SODC's, many move from house to house waiting to adjust to this new environment, many end up on an increase number of psychotropic medications. This is not success. For many people living in SODC's it has been their home for 20, 30 and even 40 years. Many of them have known each other, their roommates, housemates and friends and the same staff for over 20 or 30 years. Many people in SODC's are part of the community, have friends outside of the SODC and have local vendors, beauticians, retailers, food service employees that know them by name. This is success.

Tony said 14 other states downsized SODC's, including Indiana. He did not tell you that Indiana could not place all its own residents in community living arrangements, because providers in Indiana would not admit them do to behavioral concerns such as aggression. I know this because the agency I work for sent me to Indiana to explore whether any of these people could be cared for by our agency. Why would my employer pay myself and a nurse to travel to Indiana for several days, because Indiana promised out of state providers approximately double the private pay rate for a 2 year period of time with payments arriving every 2 weeks. Considering payments in Illinois are about 4 months behind, this offer was a life-saver, a way to make payroll and continue to serve.

I believe that many community providers work very hard to care for people with developmental disabilities. But the truth is they get half, half the pay, half the staff and half the benefits. The person caring for people makes the same income as the person who makes your cheeseburger and fries. How can all these people leaving SODC's possibly get better care, more health services, better dental, and more community participation and more staff with better training in challenging behaviors with staff making half the pay? Lastly, Tony is very very wrong we do not know how to do this or we would know that moving approximately 275 people in 18

months to placements that do not exist is stupid and dangerous. This is the plan for Murray Center, moving approximately 5 people a week is not good care.

Rita Hicks

618-960-9006